

December 2006 NEWSLETTER

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KURT ANDERSON DOMINATES NEWGATE LEWIS CLASS SHOOT

By Phil Steinkraus

The Travelers made their fall visit to Newgate Coon Club in Norfolk, CT on Sunday November 19th and taking a successful page from the Advertising Sportsmen playbook, scored this event using the Lewis class system. For those not in the know, Lewis class seeks to divide the field evenly into six classes. If you shot the magic number at one of the class breaks, you win a prize. Sure the HOA and concurrents are still won on sheer competition but for the rest of the field, your trophy is more of a gift than proof that you actually out-shot anyone. It's clearly intuitive that this less competitive event format is gentler on the egos of some of our newer shooters (and some older ones as well!) and anything we can do to encourage increased involvement in the sport at every level is welcomed.

The last time I shot Newgate had been in the spring under bracingly raw and slightly moist conditions (note my artistic use of understatement!) and I'm pleased to report that our November event allowed me to further repress that agonizingly unpleasant experience to the farthest reaches of a clouded and increasingly selective memory. Sure it was a little overcast and maybe you'd prefer to bring along a pair of gloves, but it was a good day just the same.

Newgate is a facility that relies on volunteer labor to function—it was members of the scholastic clays program (a team of juniors that Travelers co-sponsors) manning the traps. But when it became evident that most of the presentations on the course would be of the tried-and-true--dare I say--déjà vu-esque variety, I contend who cares? It's a Lewis class event—not the Club Championship, and like being invited over to a friend's for a familiar meal at their table, sometimes it's nice to know what you'll be served.

Familiar faves include following pairs of long incomers that stalled and rolled off to the right just as they neared the box. This eight-shot-station is a study in patience and deliberate repetitive motion: Get it right the first time and just keep doing it. Another standout was a true pair of a standard and a midi. The standard flew low, right-to-left across the front of the box while the 90 arched high, screaming right-to-left off a low tower, finally apexed and then beat it for ground cover. This was a presentation that had even the most experienced shooters on my squad questioning which element to take first, but it's axiomatic that with good course design, when someone finally does it right it all comes clear: Pop the 90 right off the arm and then take your sweet time getting to that standard. It was our last two stations that really got my blood pumping, however. That fur and feather was well designed and the varied target sequencing of the presentation made it almost seem like you were shooting two different stations at once. The flier was a sinister-looking quartering shot that most on our squad could only take a halfhearted poke at. That big bounding bunny should have been money in the bank on every pair but then we got the kicker, last true pair of rabbits, bouncing entirely differently than they had as singles. It just goes to show that necessity is the mother of invention. You can make a layout interesting in lots of different ways and varied-pair-sequencing is an underutilized arrow in the course designer's quiver. Finally the big, bad, high, left-to-right off the hill followed by the looping right-to-left staller gave us all a thrill. The first crosser looked awfully long in that flat light (it wasn't) and the lead as the target lost power seemed like it might be diminishing exponentially (it was). But it was the looper that most tested eyesight and timing. With age comes a shameless practicality--after I missed this once, I regressed to shooting it one-eyed Chuck Conner's style. A broken target is a kill—it doesn't matter by what ham-fisted technique you engaged to get it!

Kurt Anderson whipped the rest of the field turning in an 82 earning him HOA bragging rights and proving he was the best shot on the course that day. John Lawlor was hot on Kurt's heels posting an 80.

Newgate is as well known for their food as for their shooting and the cuisine of Roast Beef with all the trimmings and apple pie for dessert did not disappoint. It's a long season of shooting some of us undertake and I always feel there's something particularly festive about Newgate in autumn—almost like you're going to someone's house for a Christmas party. You raise a glass and share in good cheer with friends and comrades. I suppose you could say we all had a nice time, but anyone really attuned to the sport and the role CTSCA plays in it knows that there is a depth and meaning to our group that defies definition. We stand for all the things that made America great: Healthy competition, a striving for excellence, good sportsmanship and an unerring insistence on fair play by and from all. Charity, humility, and tolerance: All are welcome at our events and all topics are open for discussion. Liberal, Conservative, Christian, Muslim and Jew all pull the trigger together on the course and then break bread together at the same table. Maybe I read too much into these things and maybe it really just is a silly shooting club, but to me it's special—far greater than the sum total of its parts. Best wishes to the Travelers membership and their families for a happy, healthy and above all, safe holiday season.

HOA	Kurt Anderson	82
Cl. 1	John Lawlor	80
Cl. 2	Charles Magistro	74
Cl. 3	Lyell Williams	70
Cl. 4	Jason Lenhart	65
Cl. 5	Frank Cipollino	61
Cl. 6	J Silver	54
Jun.	Amber Kirylak	54
Lady	Stefanie Steinkraus	74
Vet.	Lavert Cypher	80
S.Vet	Eddie Moritt	79
Guest	Joe Gimelli	69

RENEW NOW !!!

If you got RELOAD! along with a renewal coupon by mail, your dues have not been received. If you have the coupon, send In your dues immediately. If your dues are not received by December 31, 2006, your membership will lapse.

TOYS FOR TOTS / ADOPT A FAMILY HOLIDAY CONTRIBUTION 2006

As in past years, we will again ask our members attending the Christmas Party to bring an unwrapped toy(s) or give a financial donation to support Clarice Murphy's Holiday program. The program is sponsored by the Town of Wassaic Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. If we are as generous this year as we have been in previous years, there will be a lot of happy families this holiday season.

TRAVELER'S GENEROSITY

The "Northwest Clay Busters" Scholastic Clays Program Team, sponsored by Ye Old Newgate Coon Club received donations totaling \$500 in cash as well as miscellaneous ammunition from CTSCA. The members attending our November 19th shoot at the Coon Club were very generous with their support. The scholastic team members worked the machines during the shoot and they were all later presented to our members at lunch wearing their great looking shooting vests donated by the Travelers. Coaches Greg Ester and Patsy and Joe Gimelli have committed their time and abilities to provide these kids with a great experience—the team goal is to attend the NSCA National Championships in San Antonio in September. Hopefully we've made it a little easier for them to continue their shooting.

THE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME OF CLAY SHOOTING

By Henry S.F Nachaj

For a good number of years the Travelers have held FITASC events, AKA “Parcours de Chasse” events or in Americaspeak “FITASC shoots”. While the Europeans have filled their shoots to capacity for many years, FITASC has only slowly but steadily gained a North American audience. FITASC is the closest thing to real hunting presentations in the shotgun sports. In what other discipline would one shoot a single target once with both barrels and not repeat it? Where else, would one find targets at both extremes: 5 feet or over 200?! One could get a flushing-into-the-woods, grouse-type of shot while the next would be a Scottish driven pheasant! And you only get the one chance at it with both barrels!

It is not a clay shooting game that is welcomed by the perfect score specialists of trap or skeet. Amazingly, many hunters enjoy the game as well as some sporting clay shooters. Perfect scores on a Parcours are rare (except for this year’s World FITASC Championship in Minnesota, where the targets were softened in an effort to placate the ego of the American shot-gunner). FITASC is not a game of perfect but more about hitting that special target that most miss. Has any hunter ever killed everything he attempts--even the very best of hunters? Parcours de Chasse is a hunter’s game whereby the clay shooter has the best target facsimile of hunting situations presented to him.

So we need a little history about what and who started this game called: **Fabulous Interesting Testy Awesome Sporting Clays!** There were some forms of artificial flying targets as early as the 17th century to train shooters for hunting and live bird competitions. Some rules had to be established for the safe shooting of glass targets originally, and then clay pitch targets later, as well as live pigeons. One of the first sporting associations, officially formed in 1867 in Paris, was the Circle of the Skaters in the Woods of Boulogne. That same year in Italy, the Tivoli shooting club was formed. In May 1893, the first sporting shooting association, the Inanimate Bird Shooting Association, was created in England. Up until the First World War, a number of grand sporting events were staged at these Clubs where many participants were from high society

After the First World War, the sport underwent some very important changes in Europe as well as in North America. There was a need to form an International Association in order to bring together all the various national organizations to harmonize and coordinate the sporting rules, and to supervise their enforcement during international competitions. On June 4th 1921, spurred on by France, the **INTERNATIONAL UNION OF HUNTING (English for UIC)** was created in Lausanne, Switzerland. Until 1973, its registered office was at 21 rue de Clichy, Paris, France. The founding members represented at the first meeting were: South Africa, England, Belgium, Denmark, the United States, France, Norway, Netherlands, Romania and Sweden. The goal of this new Federation was to bring together the national groups of the world that practiced shooting sports, i.e. live pigeon shooting, clay target shooting and running deer shooting (with bullets) in order to unify their sporting rules.

The first president from 1921 to 1933 was the Count Justinien Clary. He was also the co-founder of the French Olympic Committee in which he held the presidency of from 1913 to 1933, and was also the President of the Saint-Hubert Club of France from 1903 to 1933 (a foundation that promotes the hunting and consummation of wild game and supports several charities.) The international sporting rules for all the disciplines of shooting with hunting shotguns were then established by UIC, which put them into practice in the 1924 Paris Olympic Games. Subsequently, the Olympic Committee decided that the disciplines of shooting with hunting shotguns would no longer form part of the Olympic Games’ program. The UIC then organized under its own auspices, the International Championships. It was held annually in countries requesting them. From 1929 to 1939, the Olympic Trench (bunker trap) World Championships took place annually; the European championships took place in 1933, 1938 and in 1940. As for live pigeon shooting, annual World championships were organized between 1930 and 1940. Upon the death of the Count Clary in 1933, the Presidency of the Federation passed to Mr. Maurice Faure, under whose Presidency the last championships were held before the Second World War. At the general assembly in

1938, the INTERNATIONAL UNION OF HUNTING (UIC) became LA FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE TIR AUX ARMES SPORTIVES DE CHASSE (FITASC) as it is still known to this day. It gathered together 27 national organizations divided into three sporting sections: live pigeon shooting, clay target shooting and shooting with rifles.

FITASC's sporting activities slowed down during the Second World War and Mr Maxime Ducrocq, its Honorary President, oversaw the federation's running until 1947. On the 30th November 1947 at the general assembly of San Remo, he was elected President of the Federation. From this point onwards, competitive shooting with hunting shotguns made new inroads into the international clay shooting circuit as well as pigeon shooting.

In an attempt to try and reintroduce clay pigeon shooting as an Olympic discipline for the 1948 games, FITASC decided in 1947, to entrust the disciplines of Olympic Trench (bunker trap) and Running Deer to the International Union of Shooting (English for I.U.T.), the latter already being affiliated to the International Olympic Committee for the disciplines of shooting with rifled barrel weapons (pistols and rifles).

The Federation, by then 13 national groups strong (mainly European or African), organized several European championships in 1947, 1951 and 1952. However, in 1950, the affiliated federation members of both international organizations acknowledged that the majority did not feel the system adopted in 1947 was satisfactory.

In fact, the International Union of Shooting (U.I.T.) at that time set up the following:

- Only one World championship every four years, limiting the participation to only 5 shooters per nation,
- and, in alternate four years periods, the Olympic Games, limiting the participation to only 2 shooters per nation.

FITASC's General Assembly in 1951 instructed its president, the Hon. Count de Gouvion Saint-Cyr, to do his utmost to restart an annual international clay pigeon championships under the aegis of the federation. With this aim in view, it became necessary to come to some kind of understanding with the International Shooting Union (U.I.T.).

In 1952 both Federations reached an agreement. FITASC was once again in charge of organizing an annual European championships; sixteen were held between 1952 and 1968 in the discipline of Olympic Trench (bunker trap), and fourteen in the discipline of International Skeet (Olympic) between 1954 and 1968--a new discipline created a few years earlier. Since 1939, these disciplines had been in decline and FITASC gave rise to resurgence in the sport of clay target shooting by creating many other international events, such as the Cup of Nations, which was contested annually between 1956 and 1968. Thanks to the adoption and the implementation of the principle of "open" championships and not limiting the number of individual participants per nation, the number of affiliated countries and the number of shooters taking part in the international events increased considerably.

In 1966, the federation had 43 affiliated national groups, which represented 40 countries from four continents. Collaboration between FITASC and UIT continued until 1969. From then on, the UIT was entrusted with both Olympic disciplines on a permanent basis. IE, Olympic Trap and Skeet were given by FITASC to UIT. There was a continuous effort to keep and bring both organizations closer together. It was further boosted by a new agreement in 1981, spurred on by their presidents MM. Olegario Vasquez-Ranaof from the UIT and Pierre Etienne Guyot of FITASC. A very comprehensive understanding and cooperation with all shooting sports using hunting shotguns was established. Thus the agreement of 1981 ensured perfect understanding between the organizations in charge of, on the one hand Olympic disciplines, and on the other hand, the overseeing of non Olympic disciplines. In the years that followed, FITASC developed other clay target shooting sporting disciplines: firstly, Universal Trench (bunker trench with 5 machines), then Sporting (Parcours de Chasse), Helice (ZZ) and finally Compak Sporting, whilst continuing the sport of live pigeon shooting which dated back to 1921. In January 2004, FITASC renounced the shooting of live birds and discontinued overseeing that discipline as its sanctioning body.

Since 1967, FITASC has adopted rules and regulations regarding the shooting of clay targets to simulate live bird shooting. This discipline called Parours de Chasse or Sporting has had Championships in Europe since 1968 and the rest of the World, since 1979. It is the only sport where an amateur can be squaded with the best of the World! Imagine being on the same foursome of Tiger Woods for four days, or with George Digweed! One does not need to qualify for a Grand Prix or World Championship to participate. One only needs to pay his or her entry fee. Also, FITASC will choose exotic sites for a Grand Prix or World Championship where not only are the targets interesting but also the sights and attractions.

Therefore, it would be a pity to miss the African in Marrakech (April 2007), the Euro (France June 2007) or the World Championship (Prague July 2007), as all are very reasonably priced, interesting and far more exotic than going to Texas in September!

CONTACTING THE TRAVELERS...

CTSCA Home Office: Al Anglace, email aaa738@aol.com (by far the best way) or telephone 860-354-9351 if you absolutely must.

Editor: Phil Steinkraus, e-mail philistein@aol.com

Membership, Address Changes and Shooting Class status Contact Cyndi Dalena at E-mail shotguncyndi@prodigy.net

Guide Book questions, Dick Orenstein oren@umich.edu or call 203-226-5251.

Past issues of "Reload!" are available online at www.ShotgunReport.com.

• • • 2006 CTSCA SHOOTING CALENDAR • • •

DEC. 17 – DICK LOSEE MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS PARTY SHOOT – Mid County Rod & Gun Club – LaGrangeville, NY.

• • • OTHER 2006 SHOTS OF INTEREST • • •

Always call ahead to confirm.

DEC. 3 - NSCA XMAS SHOOT, Ye Old Newgate Coon Club, Norfolk, CT.

DEC. 6 -friendsofmaddy Benefit shoot, Mid Hudson Sporting Grounds, New Paltz, NY. Catered Dinner. Wine and Cigar closing. \$500.00 per gun All proceeds benefit Maddy's family travel cost during hospitalization. Please contact Mr. John Uanis (1.201.704.7044) or Richard Lanzilotta (516.859.4359) to reserve spot. Space limited. Check it out: www.friendsofmaddy.com

• • • 2007 CTSCA SHOOTING CALENDAR • • •

JAN. 21 – "MID WINTER MARTYDOM" Mid Hudson Sporting Grounds, New Paltz, NY

FEB. 18 – ANNUAL MEETING, Mid Hudson Sporting Grounds, New Paltz, NY

MAR. 18 – "MARCH MADNESS" To be announced.

APR. 6, 7 & 8 – EASTERN SHORE SPRING TOUR

APR. 22 – "TAX TIME REVOLT" Ye Old Newgate Coon Club, Norfolk, CT

MAY. 19 & 20 – "20th Anniversary 300" Clubs to be announced.

JUN. 17 – 2007 SPORTING CLAYS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, Mid Hudson Sporting Grounds

JUL.15 – "SUMMERTIME, SUMMERTIME" Orvis/Sandanona, Millbrook, NY

AUG. 10, 11 & 12 – GREAT EASTERN LOBSTER CLASSIC, Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI

SEPT. 16 – “SEPTEMBERSCHUTZENFEST” Millbrook Rod & Gun Club

OCT. 5, 6 & 7 – Fall Tour, Rhode Island Area Clubs

OCT.21 – SMALL GAUGE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, Fairfield County Fish & Game Club, Monroe, CT

NOV. 18 – “SALUTE THE COLORS” Ye Old Newgate Coon Club, Norfolk, CT

DEC. 16 – DICK LOSEE MEMORIAL SHOOT / X-MAS PARTY, Mid County Rod & Gun Club

THE UPCOMING **CTTRAVELERS** MONTHLY SHOOT
“Dick Losee Memorial CHRISTMAS PARTY AND shoot”

Mid County Rod & Gun Club
LaGrangeville, New York
Sunday, December 17, 2006

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST OPEN AT 8:30 AM. SHOOT BEGINS AT 9:45 AM. MEMBER ENTRY FEE: \$65.00. GUESTS ARE WELCOME AT THIS SHOOT AT A COST OF \$75.00 ENTRY FEE. LUNCH ONLY \$15.00.

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

--- Your application must be received by Wednesday, December 13, 2006 ---

NAME(S) – ONLY list names being paid by the enclosed check:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

If possible, please squad with: _____

Concurrent: Lady __, Vet __ (55-64), Sr. Vet __ (65 and older) or Junior __ (17 and younger).
REMINDER: CONCURRENT AND HANDICAP PARTICIPATION IS THE MEMBER’S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTE SAME ON THE SCORE CARD.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CTSCA AND MAIL WITH YOUR RESERVATION TO: CTSCA, 91 PARK LANE ROAD, NEW MILFORD, CT. 06776

DIRECTIONS: Taconic Plwy. North to exit for Rte. 55 East. Continue to Route 82. Follow 82 North to County Road 89, on right. Stay on Rte. 89 for 3 _ miles to club on right. Club phone: 845 677-5736.