

## MAY 2006 NEWSLETTER

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### NEWGATE WASHOUT

By Phil Steinkraus

We all want to believe we're tough: That when push comes to shove we will persevere and overcome and succeed because we have moxie, spunk, determination and good old fashioned Yankee backbone. I shoot for the fun of it but the Travelers Tax Time Revolt event held at Ye Olde Newgate Coon Club on April 23<sup>rd</sup> was such a harsh test of one's mettle that I can honestly say I hated every second of it and it rates as the second single worst shooting experience in my 14-year career. It wasn't the course, the targets or certainly not the excellent chicken lunch served afterward but rather the never-ending water torture of precipitation combined with cruel raw temperatures that took the fun out of this event for everyone.

The biggest drawback to running this newsletter is I feel a responsibility to attend as many Travelers events as possible to ensure that even if the reporter assigned to cover the shoot doesn't show up, that we still get a proper write up. I didn't know who'd be at Newgate that Sunday so after shooting FITASC at M&M in South Jersey on Friday, wife Stefanie and I hightailed it back up North so we could be available.

When I stepped out on my back porch Sunday morning, I honestly thought we might get lucky, and the steady sprits I was feeling dripping down the collar of my shirt might break long enough to make the trip over to Newgate worthwhile. On the car ride over from New York, both of us started getting that unsettling feeling of foreboding. It wasn't raining that hard, but it was steady and unvarying. When we finally got out of the truck in the Newgate parking lot, it was undeniable: Not only was it pissing rain, but it was also ten or fifteen degrees colder on this side of the state line. We were all about to be very wet and cold.

Editor Buck always liked to say that wet weather shooting was just a matter of equipment: If you have the best rainwear money can buy, waterproof hat and boots and wipe down those specs with Rain-X then you've probably already beaten the guy who doesn't have the right gear—even if he is the better shooter. I happen to agree with Bruce's hypothesis: If you're a real shooter, you need to be prepared for everything. Many is the time I've been kidded by family and friends for toting around a *steamer trunk* full of clothes and equipment everywhere I go, but it was days like this Sunday that not only did I use some of this gear—I used all of it.

Stefanie and I were squaded with Lavert Cypher, Steve Jones and Eddie Morrit none of whom had proper rainwear and all of whom promptly looked miserable. Steve was particularly miffed as he was shooting a new 32-inch Miroku Grade V—a gun that was so desirable ten years ago that you couldn't afford to buy one and is so unfashionable now, Steve told me he picked it up for peanuts.

The driving rain was very quickly compounded by trap/target problems that often had us adjusting presentations on the fly. The pullers were made up entirely of high school kids who quickly exuded the grizzled weariness of a soldier in a WWII Bill Malden cartoon. It took us something like an hour and a half to cover six stations on the sixteen-station course. When we made the turn to one—I polled the squad: *None of us have anything to prove here—there's a hot meal and a subsidized bar waiting for us back in the clubhouse—do we want to throw in the towel?* My comrades declined the invitation, as did my wife. We would stick it out. Apparently plenty of other people were thinking the same thing as we saw complete squads retreat off the flooded course and back into the warm dry bosom of Dodge/Chrysler and General Motors.

How were the targets? Who gives a \$#@! about targets when you're soaked to the bone and freezing to death! Target presentations were based on tried and true themes and I must pay the ultimate complement that all of the club equipment and personnel performed admirably and exceeded any and all reasonable expectations: I was hating every second of this day but as we had paid for the privilege, these kids were going to do their damdest to see that we had a good time.

By the time we came to our last couple of stations, Stefanie was shaking uncontrollably and was starting to look a little bluish around the gills. Trouble was she was only down about ten targets in total and if she could just finish reasonably well, Lavert surmised, she might carry the whole day. I hugged her and rubbed her as best I could and I told her to jump around and wave her arms to get the blood flowing. She chose to stand statue-still instead, as any movement just brought cold wet clothing into contact with her skin. Stefanie stuck it out though and came off the course with an 83. Despite having to shoot a borrowed gun for the first station, I managed to

come through the other fifteen stations with my .410 on a raw score of 63, which Cyndi Dalena and Dean Anglace judiciously felt would warrant a modified handicap of 18 targets for my pop-gun.

You can only imagine the relief we all felt to get the hell out of that weather. The Newgate dining room never looked more welcoming, and I abruptly took the day off from my diet and pigged out on roasted chicken and two-dollar scotch whiskies. Young Ben Slome was in attendance as was his father Ian and even his mother: It's true that there are always clear skies after the storm, and perhaps my 13-year-old friend will be my new hunting buddy for years to come!?

George Ostrander was able to ignore this torture long enough to screw himself down and come off with a phenomenal score of 86! The true mark of the competitor is they are able to get the job done even when everything is going wrong and we congratulate George for succeeding under such impossible conditions. Stefanie-*the Bavarian Express*-Steinkraus rolled over everyone else and was runner-up and class two Champion with her very determined 83. Yours truly managed an adjusted score of 81 with my Red Ryder BB gun.

Seventy-five shooters registered to compete and only forty-five came off that course with a completed scorecard. Some looked out their bedroom window and wisely chose to remain in bed. Others came but never left the clubhouse and I suppose the smartest gave it an initial try and then quit when things got ugly. I can only theorize that those of us who toughed it out did so because, in some way finishing on that cruel day meant something more—much more. It was perhaps one rare chance to give a physical manifestation to the commitment and love to this game some of us have.

As I write this I just returned from shooting FITASC on the Eastern shore of Maryland. We competed under blue bird skies in shorts and polo shirts and I have sunburn--It was wonderful.

HOA		George Ostrander	86
Cl. 1	Ch	Phil Steinkraus	81
Cl. 1	RU	Dean Anglace	78
Cl. 1	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jeff Ledgard	77
Cl. 2	Ch	Stefanie Steinkraus	83
Cl. 2	RU	Paul Cahan	78
Cl. 2	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bill Bretschger	75
Cl. 3	Ch	Cyndi Dalena	67
Cl. 3	RU	Hank Draper	63
Cl. 3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bob Makarian	56
Cl. 4	Ch	Ed Gershey	64
Cl. 4	RU	John Hachman	54
Cl. 4	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dick Malin	49
Cl. 5	Ch	Stephen Rice	60
Cl. 5	RU	Charlie Troy	54
Cl. 5	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bill Hawley	31
Cl. 6	Ch	Alan Costa	40
Ladies	Ch	Olive Lawlor	48
Ladies	RU	Gwyn Grant	39
Vet.	Ch	Lavert Cypher	78
Vet.	RU	Jon Lawlor	71
Vet.	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stephen Rice	60
SenVet	Ch	Al Anglace	72
Junior	Ch	Ben Slome	63
Junior	RU	Amber Kirylak	44
Junior	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kristin Hachman	
Guest	Ch	Mike Griffin	66

## CLUB HISTORIAN

By John M. Hachman

### MAY MINUET

The Connecticut Travelers will once again converge for our monthly Sporting Clays Extravaganza on May 21 at the beautiful Tamarack Preserve in Millbrook, NY. By that time we should all be dried out and fully recovered from the torrential rains of near biblical proportions that we endured last month. At one point during the shoot I thought I saw deer, turkey, bears,

raccoons and bobcats marching two by two in near military formation heading uphill towards the top of the mountain--perhaps it was just my imagination!

For those of you who attended the 2005 May Minuet shoot, you will probably recall what happened during the last 45 minutes of the shoot--I sure do. The skies opened up and I got soaked to my shorts! Yes, I was one of those inexperienced, unprepared souls who scrambled to buy new dry shirts for the kids and myself. Soaked to the bone, what a miserable feeling. Learn from my mistake: Always come prepared! Bring your rain gear, pack a change of clothes in your car and leave it there for the whole season!

Sixty-one shooters attended the May Minuet last year and endured the high humidity followed by the the afternoon monsoon. It rained so hard I couldn't even see the targets through my glasses. Here is a look at the winning scores of the shoot.

HOA – Lavert Cypher .....	90
Class 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Ted Burke .....	85
Class 1 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phil Steinkraus .....	77
Class 1 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dean Anglace .....	76
Class 2 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Ed Moritt .....	83
Class 2 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> George Parsons .....	73
Class 2 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ed Shine .....	73
Class 3 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Kevin Kruleski .....	80
Class 3 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Andrej Kirylak .....	79
Class 3 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan Oak .....	76
Class 4 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Peter Colomello .....	70
Class 4 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lans Christensen .....	67
Class 4 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tim Tice .....	58
Class 5 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Jason Costa.....	65
Class 5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Augie Costa .....	64
Class 5 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gary Fox .....	63
Ladies – 1 <sup>st</sup> Stefanie Steinkraus .....	78
Ladies – 1 <sup>st</sup> Cyndi Dalena .....	73
Ladies – 1 <sup>st</sup> Edie Ellis .....	62
Veteran – 1 <sup>st</sup> Jim Kline .....	81
Veteran – 1 <sup>st</sup> Marty Schroeder .....	70
Veteran – 1 <sup>st</sup> Fred Roesslein .....	69
Sr. Veteran– Al Anglace .....	80
Junior – 1 <sup>st</sup> Max Hachmann .....	55
Junior – 1 <sup>st</sup> Ben Slome .....	54
Junior – 1 <sup>st</sup> Amber Kirylak .....	50

Congratulation to our 2005 May Minuet Champions. May 21<sup>st</sup> is just around the corner so please do not delay, get your reservation form in as early as possible. See you all out on the course.

### **CLAYSHOOTING USA CORRECTION**

The Travelers own Henry Nachaj published a comprehensive article in Clayshooting USA profiling the CTSCA as the oldest shooting club of its kind in the country. While the article was certainly flattering to the CTSCA in general and El Presidente, Al Anglace in particular, we are not in fact the oldest club of it's kind. That honor is reserved for the Advertising Sportsmen, that venerable institution that runs its shoots around the Millbrook area on Thursdays and is run by our very good friend Jack Robertson. While those of us who write make every attempt to get our facts straight, occasionally a mistake slips past the best of us. (Editor)

### **SWAP MEET**

The CTSCA Club Championship held at Mid-Hudson on June 11<sup>th</sup> will also serve as our annual swap-meet. That means if you have any guns, clothing, artwork, shooting or hunting related objects-d'art or ephemera, lug them up from the basement and lay it out for all to behold! In all seriousness, it looks like my darling wife may volunteer her day to manage these sales for us so it's just a matter of writing up an accurate description of what it is you're selling and slapping a price tag on it. I'll be the one with case upon case of ammo at \$3 a box. (Editor)

### **LADIES DAY CELEBRATION**

The Travelers' Annual Ladies Day will be celebrated at our "May Minuet" shoot at Tamarack Preserve on Sunday, May 21. To honor our Ladies we will present awards selected by Donna Galotto from the Jim White Collection; offer them a half price entry fee and allow them to invite a Lady shooting guest at half price. They can also bring a Lady friend to tour the course with the member and be the guest of the Travelers at lunch. There just might be a few surprises thrown in to make this an enjoyable day for our Ladies. Please see registration application for details.

### **SCHOLASTIC CLAY SHOOTING CLUB**

As part of our 2006 commitment to support the shooting sports and it's Junior participants, the Travelers are delighted to announce that we will purchase 12 shooting vests for the Ye Olde Coon Club Sponsored Scholastic Clay Shooting Team; "The Northwest Connecticut Clays Crushers". This successful national program was developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and is now promoted as part of the National Sporting Clays Associations' nationwide program. In the near future we will invite the Team to a monthly shoot so they can meet our members.

***NEW TO SHOOTING? CTSCA is instituting a mentoring program whereby newer shooters may request to be squaded with an experienced mentor to assist them. This will not be a tutorial in any sense but it will give the newer shooters a chance to ask pertinent questions to someone who actually knows what they're talking about. If you are interested in being squaded with a mentor indicate it on your entry form. If you think you are knowledgeable enough to act as a mentor, think again—don't call us we'll call you!***

**CONTACTING THE TRAVELERS...**

***CTSCA Home Office:*** Al Anglace, email [aaa738@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:philistein@aol.com)

***Membership, Address Changes and Shooting Class status.*** Contact Cyndi Dalena at E-mail [shotguncyndi@prodigy.net](mailto:shotguncyndi@prodigy.net)

***Guide Book*** questions, Dick Orenstein [oren@umich.edu](mailto:oren@umich.edu) or call 203-226-5251.

Past issues of "Reload!" are available online at [www.ShotgunReport.com](http://www.ShotgunReport.com).

### **- - - 2006 CTSCA SHOOTING CALENDAR - - -**

**MAY 21 – "MAY MINUET" Ladies Day – TAMARACK PRESERVE**

Millbrook, NY. See application below.

**JUN. 9 & 10 – CLUB FITASC CHAMPIONSHIPS – MID HUDSON SPORTING GROUNDS, New Paltz, NY**

Reservations for this Championship will be made directly with Peter Wicker at Mid Hudson. Guests will be welcome on an availability only basis. Any unfilled squads when Reservations close will be taken from the waiting list of guests. Reserve early!

**JUN. 11 – CLUB SPORTING CHAMPIONSHIPS – MID HUDSON SPORTING GROUNDS, New Paltz, NY.**

Repeat of the successful "SWAP MEET" held a few years ago. Buy, sell or swap those no longer needed items. Buy your new unneeded items. Contact Stefanie Steinkraus, 845-876-2570 or [philistein@aol.com](mailto:philistein@aol.com) for details.

**JUL. 16 – "SUMMERTIME SUMMERTIME" – ORVIS/SANDANONA Millbrook, NY.**

**AUG. 11, 12 & 13 – "GREAT EASTERN LOBSTER CLASSIC" – ADDIEVILLE EAST FARM – Mapleville, RI.**

**SEP. 10 – NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION FUNDRAISER – MID COUNTY FISH & GAME CLUB, LaGrangeville, NY.**

**SEP. 17 – "SEPTEMBERSHUTZENFEST" – MILLBROOK ROD & GUN CLUB Millbrook, NY.**

**SEP. 29, 30 & OCT 1 – ANNUAL FALL TRIP – Venue to be announced.**

**OCT. 15 – "SMALL GAUGE CHAMPIONSHIPS" – FAIRFIELD COUNTY FISH & GAME – Monroe, CT.**

**NOV. 19 – "SALUTE THE COLORS" – YE OLDE NEWGATE COON CLUB – Norfolk, CT.**

**DEC. 17 – DICK LOSEE MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS PARTY SHOOT – MID COUNTY  
ROD & GUN CLUB – LaGrangeville, NY.**

THIS IS A TENTATIVE CALENDAR AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO  
ACCOMMODATE OUR HOST RANGES' CALENDAR.

**MOST SHOTS WILL BE NSCA REGISTERED.**

**- - - OTHER 2006 SHOTS OF INTEREST - - -**

**Always call ahead to confirm.**

**May 25** – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Jack Robertson Hunting Heritage Trust Fundraiser – Ten Mile River Preserve, Dover Plains, NY. 203 264-7390 or [kdelfay@earthlink.net](mailto:kdelfay@earthlink.net). See insert in this months Reload.

**May 28** – “Bushwacker Bob’s” Three Shot Shoot Out & Pig roast – Ye Olde Newgate Coon Club, Norfolk, CT. Reservations: 860 738-3619 or [coonclubclays@earthlink.net](mailto:coonclubclays@earthlink.net).

**June 4** – “4<sup>th</sup> Annual Shooting for Cure” – Mid Hudson Sporting Grounds, New Paltz, NY  
Ammo, t shirt ,prizes, raffles and gun give away. All the proceeds go to American Cancer Society. So far in 3 years we shooters have given over \$40,000.00 to ACS while helping to promote our sport and having lots of fun at the same time.

**June 17** – DU Fundraiser CT Sporting Clays Tourney – Fin, Fur & Feather, Chaplin, CT. Laura Pawelec 860 429-7033 for details.

**June 18** – “Fairfields’ First FITASC” – Fairfield County Fish & Game, Newtown, CT. Contact Dom Uliano at (203) 426-8508 or [dombklab@charter.net](mailto:dombklab@charter.net)

**June 25** – DU Fundraiser Northeast Sporting Clays – Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI. Jim Tappero, 401 539-9930 for details.

**August 5** – “Crucible Shoot” , Fairfield County Fish & Game, Newtown, CT. Contact Dom Uliano at (203) 426-8508 or [dombklab@charter.net](mailto:dombklab@charter.net)

**August 26 & 27** – Connecticut State Championships, Fairfield County Fish & Game, Newtown, CT. Contact Dom Uliano at (203) 426-8508 or [dombklab@charter.net](mailto:dombklab@charter.net)

**THE UPCOMING TRAVELERS MONTHLY SHOOT**

**“May Minuet”**

Sunday, May 23, 2006

TAMARACK PRESERVE

Route 44, MILLBROOK, NY.

**ANNUAL LADIES DAY CELEBRATION**

To honor our Ladies on this special day we are inviting them to participate in this event at ***half the entry fee.***

Also, any member participating in the shoot can invite a female guest to accompany them as a shooter for ***half of the entry fee***, or non-shooting guests can accompany the member on the course as a spectator and will be welcomed as guests of the Travelers for lunch.

The usual drill, continental breakfast, 100 targets, lunch and awards. **Pre-registration by WEDNESDAY, May 19, 2006.** \$60.00 entry fee. NSCA target registration is available at this shoot. Guests are welcome.