



# JUNIOR SHOOTERS

Volume 3 | Summer 2008

MAKING A MARK

## Who's Next?

Shooting in the Olympic Games  
and a look at the 2008 Olympians



The 85T - A Premiere  
Youth Shotgun

Bangin' & Clangin'  
Shooting Steel

The National SCTP  
Championship

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ON THE COVER: OLYMPIC GAMES ATHENS 2004 - KIM RHODE (GOLD - DOUBLE TRAP), MATT EMMONS (GOLD - PRONE RIFLE), AND MIKE ANTI (SILVER - THREE POSITION RIFLE). PHOTO PROVIDED BY USA SHOOTING.

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## Notes from the Top

By: Andy Fink

### Keeping Our Shooting Sports Alive

Participating in the shooting sports can be of enormous benefit to your children. Not only can it become a fun filled family activity, it also instills focus, discipline, respect, patience, persistence, responsibility for one's own actions, and most of all, the shooting sports provide a working knowledge of safe gun handling. We can't all be the top notch basketball or football player, however, through practice and focus anyone can become very proficient in a variety of shooting sports, giving both youths and adults a true sense of accomplishment. Not only does the youth acquire many life skills along the way, but they learn how enjoyable shooting a firearm can be and the fact that guns, just like automobiles and other inanimate objects do not kill people. Firearms should be treated with respect and caution, not with fear and trepidation. Safely handling a firearm is so important.

I believe that all children, starting at a reasonable young age (depending upon the child's development), should have an understanding of gun safety and operation and an opportunity to shoot in a responsible, safe, controlled environment. Their interest, shooting skills, and even life skills can be further developed from that point. We also need to keep a number of other elements in the back of our minds while this process is going on. The thrill of hunting with our children or grandchildren in the outdoors, or the pride we feel as they hit that clay bird is not enough. We need to remember that we are all one - from the trap shooter to the hunter, from the action shooter to the precision long-range shooter and even the air gun shooter who may be an Olympic hopeful - we all enjoy the right to participate in shooting sports. We must not lose sight of the fact that each person involved in one shooting sport has a direct relationship and responsibility to all of the other millions of people involved in the other shooting sports.

In order to keep these sports alive and growing, especially in today's environment of a fear of firearms, we must stand together and also teach our children of our heritage, the Constitution, why the United States of America was formed, and most of all, the Bill of Rights. The Second Amendment gives us, the people, the right to keep and bear arms. This "right," as written by our founding fathers, was designed to protect the people from a government that could become so overbearing, oppressive, and controlling that they would restrict or eliminate our other rights such as free speech, religion, the right to assembly, as well as the pursuit to a life of liberty and happiness. This also implies the natural right of protection for yourself and your family. Now, many of you think that this can never happen in the United States of America, and I certainly hope that proves true. The Second Amendment: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." It states that it is the right of the people. Without this right you would not have the power to protect your other rights, and yourself, nor be able to enjoy the shooting sports and have the opportunities you do.

We must all make an effort to encourage youth into the shooting sports. There is also a need to support all of the shooting sports, not just the one or two that we are involved in. We need to make the right to keep and bear arms a primary concern in relationship to the other rights we have as defined by our forefathers, so make your vote count.

# JUNIOR SHOOTERS

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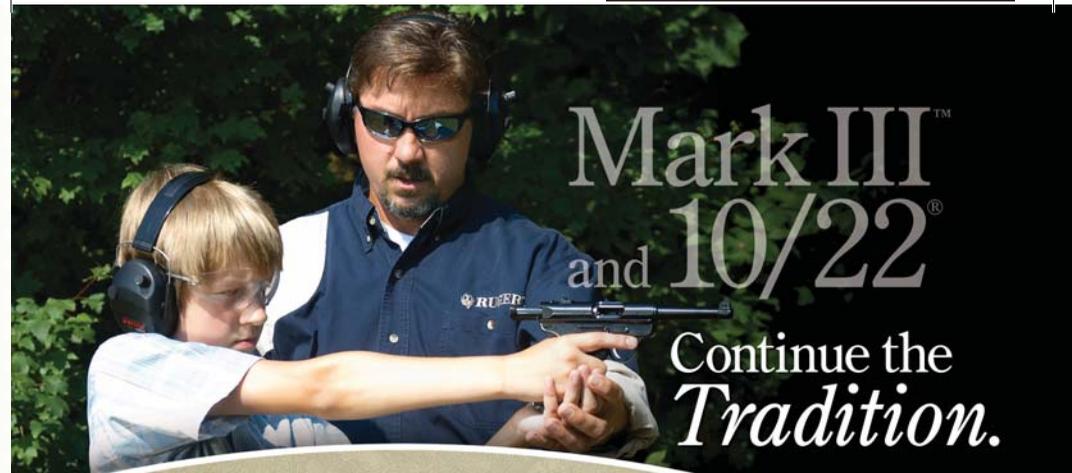
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# Dreams Do Come True - Shooting in the Olympics

By: Mary Beth Vorwerk  
Photos Courtesy of USA Shooting.  
Flag Photo Courtesy of Alan Lott  
with Mr. Quigley Photography.



Have you ever dreamed of winning an Olympic Gold medal? What shooting sport would you pick to compete in? Did you know that there are 15 shooting events, six for women and nine for men, in the Olympic Games divided into shotgun, rifle, and pistol disciplines? Juniors have competed and won medals in the Olympic Games. There is one Olympian shooter, Kim Rhode, who is on her way to her fourth Olympic games. She qualified for the team when she was 16 and had her 17 birthday just before winning her first Olympic gold.

Shooting has been one of the most historic Olympic competitions, having been a part of the Olympic program since 1896. The sport was only omitted twice from the Olympic program – once at the third Olympic Games in 1904 in St. Louis, Missouri, and again at the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam.

From the spear and the projectile throwing contests, to the modern day Olympic Games, shooting has evolved into a competitive sport with nearly 20 million target shooters participating in the United States alone. The sport was reintroduced to the Olympic Games in 1896, when former French pistol champion Baron Pierre de Coubertin included shooting on the original Olympic program. Since then, the U.S. has claimed 97 Olympic medals in shooting and is looking to add to its all-time Olympic medal tally at the 2008 Olympic Summer Games in Beijing, China. These 97 medals in shooting include 11 medals won by Carl Osburn, who is tied with Olympic legends Mark Spitz (swimming) and Matt Biondi (swimming) as the most decorated Olympians in U.S. history.

The Games will take place August 8 through 24, with the shooting portion of the competition being held August 8 through 17.

The number of Olympic shooting events has ranged from a low of two at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games to a high of 21 in Antwerp, Belgium in 1920.

Built in 1985, the U.S. Olympic Shooting Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the largest indoor shooting facility in the Western hemisphere and among the largest in the world. Three separate ranges provide 29 firing points from 50 meters and 73 firing points from 10 meters for training and competitions. The site also houses the administration offices, a gunsmith room, and locker rooms for resident and visiting athletes.

The Olympic Games include the following shooting competitions on the program:

#### Pistol

10m air pistol – Men & Women

25m rapid fire pistol – Men

25m sport pistol – Women

50m free pistol – Men

#### Rifle

10m air rifle – Men & Women

50m rifle 3 positions – Men & Women

50m rifle prone – Men

#### Shotgun

Skeet – Men & Women

Trap – Men & Women

Double trap – Men

To qualify athletes for the Olympic Games, shooters worldwide must secure Olympic "quota" slots that determine how many competitors from each nation can be sent to the Olympics. With 28 positions available for the 2008 Olympic Games, the U.S. Shooting Team secured 24 total quota slots in World Cup, World Championship and Pan American Games

competition in 2005, 2006 and 2007, with at least one slot in each of the 15 events.

Making the U.S. Olympic Team

For many athletes, the Olympic Games are an idea. We see it on television. We read about it in the papers. We idolize its heroes. That, however, is where it often ends.

In the sport of shooting, making the jump from firearm safety to an Olympic hopeful may seem like a long shot, but as the National Governing Body for the Olympic sport of shooting, it is USA Shooting's mission to share the sport with interested individuals and groups throughout the U.S.

From becoming a member of USA Shooting to honing your shooting skills to a specific discipline, the sport can be an incredibly rewarding experience.

Below is a brief explanation of the steps required to make the U.S. Olympic Team. This is a short listing and further detail will be needed to comply with team selection regulations.

1. Shoot in a preliminary tryout (PTO) sponsored by USA Shooting and fire a minimum score, which has been established in each event. Only members can participate and access the regional event listing for the PTO nearest them.

2. Athletes attaining the minimum score in their event will receive an invitation to participate in the USA Shooting National Championships (USANC), which is the first step for selection to either the National Team (NT) or National Development Team (NDT). Additionally, there are at least two team selection matches each year held in the spring and fall. The USANC can also be used as a team selection match.

3. Once a rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooter is named to the National Team, he/she must still qualify to serve on international squads that travel around the world. Beyond the World Cup and World Cup Finals, there are many international matches that run on a four-year sequence beginning the season following the Olympic Games (2004-2008, 2009-2012, etc.).

4. The competitions during the first year include the Championships of the Americas (CAT) and the World Clay Target Championships. The second year of the cycle consists of the prestigious World Shooting Championships. The Pan American Games and the World Clay Target Championships comprise the events of the third year, with the cycle ending in the fourth year with the Olympic Games.

So what are you waiting for? Now that you know what to do, start shooting and one day you may be the next Olympic idol, standing on the podium of the world's biggest stage!

The U.S. is coming off a successful Athens Olympic Games, where the U.S. Shooting team earned two gold medals and one silver medal. Matt Emmons, who has already secured spots on the 2008 Olympic Team in Men's 50m Prone Rifle and Men's 50m 3 Position Rifle, took gold in Men's Prone in 2004, while teammates Kim Rhode claimed gold in Women's Double Trap and Mike Anti claimed the silver in Men's 3 Position Rifle.

Each athlete must take part in the U.S. Olympic Team Trials to be named to the Olympic Team. The following athletes have already secured spots on the 2008 Olympic Team, and the rest of the team was named in May at the Rifle/Pistol Olympic Trials, which were not yet completed by press time. Visit the USA Shooting website at [www.usashooting.org](http://www.usashooting.org) for more information on competitions, training and how to become a member of USA Shooting. You can also find a complete listing of the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team. Certainly one rifleman to look for would be Matt Emmons, a Gold Medalist at the 2004 Olympic Games and the 2007 USA Shooting Male Athlete of the Year! Turn the page...

# Meet Your 2008 Olympians!

## Mens Air Rifle



**Stephen Scherer**

HOMETOWN: BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS - STEPHEN, AGE 19, STARTED SHOOTING AT AGE 11 AND HE JUST COMPLETED HIS FRESHMAN YEAR AT THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, N.Y. STEPHEN ENJOYS DEER HUNTING, PLAYING THE GUITAR, BASKETBALL, AND ANY TYPE OF CARD GAME.



**Jason Parker**

HOMETOWN: OMAHA, NEBRASKA - JASON, AGE 34, REPRESENTED THE U.S. AT BOTH THE 2000 AND 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES. HE JOINED THE U.S. ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT (USAMU) IN 1997 AFTER GRADUATING FROM XAVIER UNIVERSITY. WHEN HE IS NOT COMPETITIVELY SHOOTING, JASON'S FAVORITE HOBBIES ARE HUNTING, FISHING, AND ENTERING TRIATHLONS.

## Womens Air Rifle



**Emily Caruso**

HOMETOWN: FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT - EMILY, AGE 31, HAS BEEN SHOOTING SINCE SHE WAS 11 AND HER EXPERTISE LANDED HER ON THE 2004 OLYMPIC TEAM. SHE HAS WON THE ANNUAL USA SHOOTING AIR RIFLE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS MULTIPLE TIMES.

## Womens Air Pistol



**Rebecca Snyder**

HOMETOWN: GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO - REBECCA, AGE 32, LEARNED TO SHOOT WITH HER FATHER WHEN SHE WAS 12, AND SHE HAS SINCE COMPETED FOR THE U.S. IN THREE OLYMPIC GAMES 1996, 2000, AND 2004. BEKI, AS SHE LIKES TO BE CALLED, LETTERED IN DIVING IN HIGH SCHOOL AND HAS A BLACK BELT IN TAEKWONDO.

## Mens Air Pistol

### Jason Turner

HOMETOWN: ROCHESTER, NEW YORK - JASON, AGE 33, WAS ON THE 2004 OLYMPIC TEAM. AMONG THE CHAMPIONSHIPS HE'S EARNED HAVE BEEN NATIONAL AND PAN AMERICAN GAMES TITLES. HE SHOT RIFLE COMPETITIVELY FOR FOUR YEARS BEFORE SWITCHING TO THE PISTOL.



## Womens Trap



**Corey Cogdell**

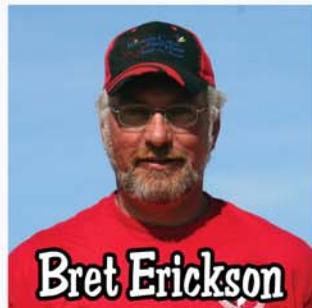
HOMETOWN: EAGLE RIVER, ALASKA - COREY, AGE 21, GREW UP HUNTING WITH HER FATHER, AND SHE ACTUALLY BEGAN SHOOTING WHEN SHE WAS JUST THREE YEARS OLD. SHE FOSTERED HER SHOOTING SKILLS THROUGH BOTH THE NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION'S SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM AND 4-H. THIS 2007 SPRING SELECTION MATCH GOLD MEDALIST WAS HOME-SCHOOLED AND CURRENTLY LIVES AT THE OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS AS A RESIDENT ATHLETE. COREY LOVES OLD CARS, ESPECIALLY JEEPS AND MUSTANGS.



**Dominic Grazioli**

HOMETOWN: MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA/SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS - DOMINIC, AGE 44, ACTUALLY SERVED AS AN ALTERNATE IN TRAP TO THE 1996 OLYMPIC TEAM, BUT THIS YEAR HE HAS EARNED A SPOT BY FINISHING SECOND AT THE TRIALS. DOMINIC, A MAJOR IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE, WAS ENCOURAGED TO START SHOOTING WHEN HE WAS YOUNG. HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE BREAKING 295 OF 300 TARGETS AT THE 1997 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

## Men's Trap



**Bret Erickson**

HOMETOWN: BENNINGTON, NEBRASKA/MUENSTER, TEXAS - AT AGE 47, BRET'S PREVIOUS OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE INCLUDES COMPETING IN THE 1992, 1996, AND 2004 GAMES. HIS FIRST SHOOTING EXPERIENCE CAME WHEN HE WAS 10, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS DAD, AND THAT BEGINNING HAS LED HIM TO SIX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. WHEN HE IS NOT COMPETING, BRET SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME COACHING, DEVELOPING JUNIORS AND WORKING WITH THE LOCAL 4-H.

## Men's Double Trap



**Glenn Eller**

HOMETOWN: KATY, TEXAS - GLENN, AGE 26, BEGAN SHOOTING AT THE AGE OF EIGHT AND BECAME A VERY ACCOMPLISHED JUNIOR SHOOTER, TAKING SEVERAL GOLD MEDALS AT JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS. HE PROGRESSED TO THE OLYMPIC TEAM FOR BOTH THE 2000 AND 2004 GAMES. GLENN HUNTS GAMEBIRDS AND DEER. HIS ATHLETICISM HELPED HIM AS A POLE VAULTER IN HIGH SCHOOL. GLENN IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE USAMU IN FT. BENNING, GEORGIA.

HOMETOWN: YORBA LINDA, CALIFORNIA: JEFF, AGE 29, TOOK THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE 2004 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND HE THANKS HIS DAD AND GRANDFATHER, BOTH COMPETITIVE TRAPSHOOTERS, FOR GUIDING HIS PROGRESS. JEFF GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS WITH A DEGREE IN HEALTH CARE SCIENCE AND FORENSIC SCIENCE AND WAS A RESIDENT ATHLETE AT THE OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE JOINING THE USAMU IN 2006. IN HIS SPARE TIME, JEFF ENJOYS WATERFOWL HUNTING, BASS FISHING, GOLF SNOWBOARDING, AND ROOTING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S FOOTBALL TEAM.



**Jeff Holquin**

## Women's Skeet

HOMETOWN: EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA - AT AGE 28, KIM IS AN INCREDIBLY ACCOMPLISHED SHOOTER, HAVING WON TWO OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALS AND ONE BRONZE IN WOMEN'S DOUBLE TRAP TO MAKE HER THE MOST DECORATED FEMALE SHOOTER IN OLYMPIC HISTORY. WHEN DOUBLE TRAP WAS REMOVED FROM THE OLYMPIC SCHEDULE AFTER THE 2004 GAMES, KIM TURNED HER ATTENTION TO INTERNATIONAL SKEET, AND SHE DEMONSTRATED HER VERSATILITY BY QUALIFYING IN THAT EVENT FOR THIS SUMMER'S GAMES. A PRECOCIOUS SHOOTER, KIM WON HER FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE AGE OF 13. KIM HAS SERVED AS CO-HOST OF THE NATIONALLY TELEVISED PROGRAM STEP OUTSIDE ON THE OUTDOOR CHANNEL. WHEN NOT SHOOTING OR STUDYING TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN, SHE LOVES TO SURF, SKI, HUNT AND BUILD AND RESTORE CARS.



**Kim Rhode**

## Men's Skeet



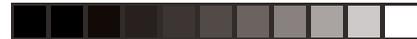
**Vincent Hancock**

HOMETOWN: EATON-TON, GEORGIA - ONLY 19, VINCENT HAS ALREADY EARNED SOME OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS TITLES IN COMPETITIVE SKEET. AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 16, HE WON HIS FIRST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN MEN'S SKEET AND WAS AWARDED THE INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FEDERATION'S SHOOTER OF THE YEAR AWARD. VINCENT IS A PRODUCT OF THE NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FOUNDATION'S SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM AND IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE USAMU.

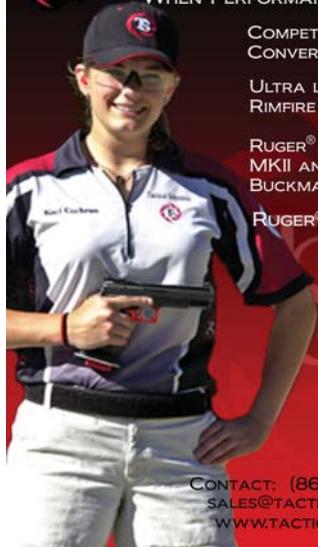


**Sean McLelland**

HOMETOWN: MISSION, TEXAS - SEAN, AGE 23, BEGAN SHOOTING AT CLAY TARGETS WHEN HE WAS 14 AND NOW SHOOT COMPETITIVELY FOR LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY, IN ST. CHARLES, MO., WHERE HE IS MAJORING IN BUSINESS. SEAN BEGAN SHOOTING IN 4-H AND EVENTUALLY WON THAT PROGRAM'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. HIS FAVORITE PASTIMES ARE BIRD AND BIG-GAME HUNTING, HIKING AND FLY FISHING.



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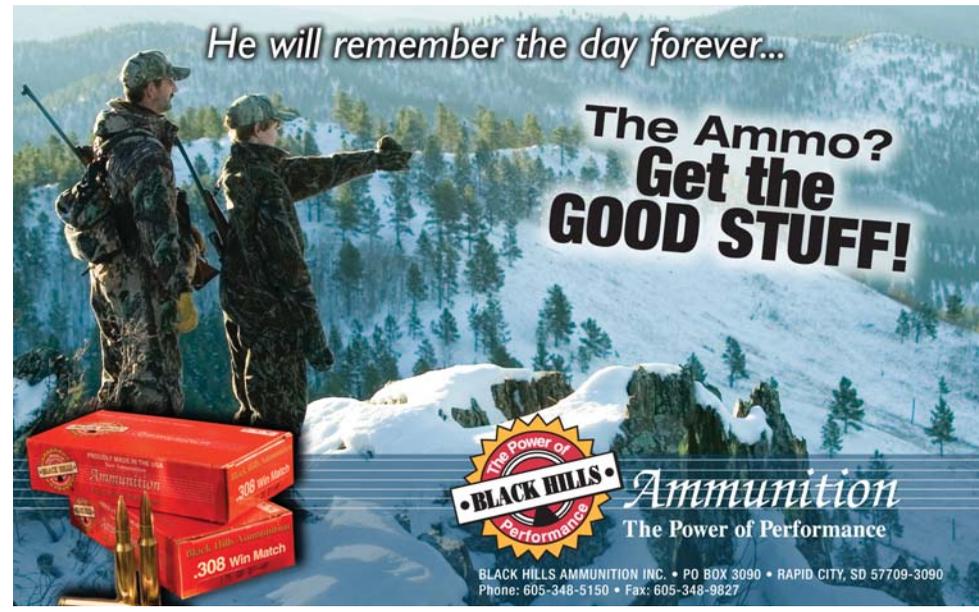
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# SKB SHOTGUNS

BY: ANDY FINK

The snow was falling in big flakes and the wind was blowing about 10 miles an hour as the young boy took his jacket off and tied it around his waist. Wearing jeans and a T-shirt, he came up to position one of the trap range. Everyone else had at least a heavy shirt on and most wore a jacket as it was pretty darn cold. The SKB 85T youth model combo 12-gauge was nearly as big as he was. He had a serious expression on his face as he loaded the gun, always safely keeping the muzzle down range and pointed at the ground. He brought the shotgun up smoothly to his shoulder as the clay bird flew out of the trap house. Boom! It was a perfect hit and the bird shattered into pieces. He continued to shoot up half a box of Fiocchi 12-gauge light loads.

With a big grin on his face and a twinkle in his eye, 11-year old Max came off the line. "That was cool," he said. "It is a really nice gun. Thanks for letting me shoot it." He was excited and you could tell he wanted to shoot the SKB again.

When I asked Rob Johansen of SKB Shotguns if he could send some guns so I could have several of our junior shooters test them, he came through right away. He provided three of the nicest shotguns I have had the privilege to shoot and handle. All three of the shotguns were variations of SKB's beautiful SKB85TSS Competition Trap Combo - the Adjustable Comb and Unsingle model. The straight stock model came with a 32" barrel. The second model had a Monte-Carlo type stock (which drops the rear of the stock slightly) and a 32" barrel. The third model was a youth model with a Monte-Carlo stock, a 30" barrel, and a reduced 13.5" pull, just right for most juniors. They were all chambered in 12-gauge 3".

The SKB 12-gauge .735 back-bored barrels are produced using a hammer forging process which ensures trueness over the length of the barrel. They are highly polished and chrome lined from the chamber to the muzzle.

All of the 85TSS barrel groups are fitted with an inter-choke tube system. Briley Manufacturing, recognized world-wide for its innovative leadership in choke tubes and barrel technology, provides SKB with an array of stainless steel choke tubes all certified for use with steel shot.

SKB added a performance enhancing competition sight system to the 85TSS series called Lightpipe by HI-VIZ that allows the shooter to be aware of the muzzle position while focusing on the flight of the target providing fast acquisition and

barrel alignment. There are eight different interchangeable light pipes.

Another feature that is available, though not provided on the shotguns we received, is the optional pigeon porting. This is provided by Mag-Na-Port International and reduces perceived recoil by 12 to 20 percent and muzzle lift by 60 to 80 percent in 12-gauge models.

The adjustable comb stock provided on each of the shotguns allows the shooter to adjust the comb to match the height of the individual's cheek for a perfect sighting plane. This, along with the forward sweeping pistol grip, places the hand closer to the trigger, aligns the wrist more comfortably, and enhances the shooter's ability to swing and control the shotgun.

The combo models come with the new unsingle barrel equipped with an adjustable rib allowing the shooter to change the point of impact to match their style of shooting. The rib is set at the factory to shoot approximately 65/35 or approximately 4" above the point of aim. It can be adjusted from 50/50 to 90/10 by simply rotating the wheel to change the angle of the rib. There is a select button behind the trigger that selects which barrel shoots first; U for under and O for over and it must be on the U for the single-barrel.

The 85TSS series also has beautiful engraving on the receiver, a first-class appearance, and is ready out of the box for you to shoot some of the best rounds of trap you have ever shot. The trigger pull is light, and the checkering on the pistol grip clean and comfortable.

Okay, enough of the technical details, let's see how it shoots. Not being a trap or skeet shooter, I thought it appropriate to see if I could get some local juniors and even a couple of adults to help me out. I contacted Ned Bishop who is a good friend, a former national champion, and at the age of 82 still shoots an occasional round of trap and participates regularly in cowboy fast draw competitions. Ned was nice enough to volunteer his time so we packed up all three shotguns and headed out to the Caldwell Gun Club chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, just about 50 minutes outside of Boise. When I opened up the three boxes and displayed the shotguns I got a crowd of juniors, adults, and even a few old timers. They couldn't wait to touch, hold, and try out these beauties!

One of the first people to try it out was Nick Adams, the



## IT HAS SUCH A GOOD FEEL AND BALANCE IT ENABLES YOU TO EASILY POINT THE TAPERED RIB TO REACH YOUR BREAK POINT. I THINK IT WOULD MAKE ANYONE A BETTER SHOOTER

Idaho State Singles Champion in trap in 2006 and Idaho's representative to the Grand American that year. Nick has regularly shot Trap since '93 but actually started in his teens. In 1993 he was the PITA (Pacific International Trap Association) State champion. Nick tested the full-choke 34" and the double 32" Monte Carlo with adjustable comb. He gave the SKB 85TSS two thumbs up! "It is a well rounded shotgun. The adjustable rib and comb provides a unique combination to adjust the point of impact and give every shooter the capability to become a better shooter. It has such a good feel and balance it enables you to easily point the tapered rib to reach your break point. I think it would make anyone a better shooter as it is so easy to

adjust and point. You can really break good scores with it. They put a lot of thought into it. It is a super shotgun. I have shot top end trap shotguns such as Kreighofs, Perazzises, and Berettas and the SKB is a full package deal!"

Max Hillma, 11, who was the 2007 sub-junior winner at the Idaho State Championship, tried the youth model, the Monte Carlo with the reduced Length of Pull (LOP). He broke 10 out of 10 with Winchester AA light target loads. His comments were, "It was a little too long but it felt good. I have been trap shooting for a year. It is really fun and I enjoy going out with my dad and shooting."

Hailey Holcomb, who is 16 and the Junior Ladies Singles



PART OF THE TESTING CREW L-R: NICK ADAMS, LISA STEWART, DARRYL HOLCOMB, BAILEY HOLCOMB, AND MAX.

DETAILED ENGRAVING ON THE RECEIVER AND PERFECT WOOD TO METAL FIT.



Champion at the 2007 Idaho State PITA and was on the cover of Junior Shooters Volume 2, also tried the youth model. Hailey first started shooting trap at 13. She really gets an adrenalin rush when she hits the birds. Her best rounds are 25 out of 25, 49 out of 50, and 91 out of 100. Hailey's dad, Darrel, adjusted the comb for her and put in one spacer to raise the comb. She said it was easier to close than her own gun though she could feel the recoil a little more as her personal shotgun has a recoil reduction system on it. It pointed well and the balance was great.

Darrel picked out the Monte Carlo 32" barreled adult model and said, "It shot really well. I got 23 out of 25 the first time. The competition trap with the adjustable comb was set perfect out of the box. I used the unsingle barrel (single trap barrel). I then came back in and switched barrels to the double and went out and shot double-trap and hit 44 out of 50 which is as good or better than what I have been doing with my own gun. They are beautiful guns. I really like the way the combs adjust, once you get the washers in place and are locked, they can't move. It shoots well and allows for custom fitting. The trigger is nice - crisp, smooth, and light. I had no trouble at all adjusting to it. The youth gun, Monte Carlo with reduced LOP fits a lot of women as well. It fit my wife Lois just about perfectly."

Philip, 11, just started shooting trap in 2007. He was running track in school and a friend suggested he try trap shooting so he and his dad, Bill, started. He says, "It is relaxing and lots of fun. It feels really good and exciting when I hit the bird." Bill, Phillip's dad, said, "This is a tremendous group of guys So many people have been willing to step up and help Phil and teach him how to shoot. Phil really liked the SKB and wished he could get one."

Lisa, 18, started shooting trap at 17. "My friends brought me out to try it. It looked like fun and I really enjoy it. It is a great feeling each time I hit the bird and it explodes. You have to be focused, and learn how to relax. The people in the club are great, and gave me a lot of advice - they are very helpful. The SKB is a really nice gun. It took just a couple of shells to get used to it. The youth model, with the reduced length of pull, felt good, about the same as my gun, and it kicked less. It was lighter than my gun so it was easier to pull up and it pointed well. It has a good trigger pull - very smooth."

Jason, Max's dad, took the Competition Trap Monte Carlo model out with the double-barrel set installed and shot double-trap. He said, "it swung nice, the recoil was manageable, the rib looked wide with a nice line of sight. It was easy to recover for the second shot when shooting doubles. I really liked it. I did not even have to adjust the comb. It came straight up to the shoulder and I broke the first ten."

After this extensive testing by a variety of people, both adults and juniors, it was clear the SKB 85TSS series are top of the line shotguns made to give the Trap shooter the capability to be the best shooter they can be. The reduced length of pull model is perfect for juniors. I whole heartedly suggest you give SKB shotguns a try.

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**JUNIOR SHOOTERS**



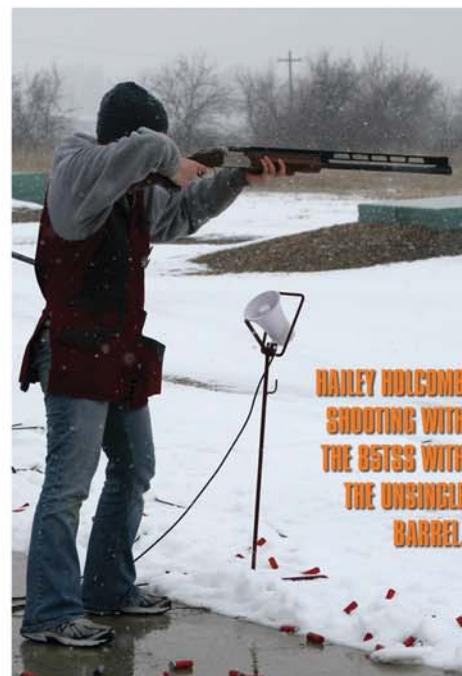
ABOVE: THE UNSINGLE ADJUSTABLE RIB BARREL WITH THE LIGHT PIPE SIGHT IS A UNIQUE CONFIGURATION.



ABOVE: THE ADJUSTABLE COMB WITH MULTIPLE SPACERS ALLOWS PERFECT CHECK PLACEMENT FOR IDEAL SIGHT ALIGNMENT.



ABOVE: THE DOUBLE-BARREL IN THE BACK AND UNSINGLE BARREL IN THE FOREFRONT SHOW OFF THE EXCELLENT MANUFACTURING AND FIT.



HAILEY HULCOMB SHOOTING WITH THE 85TSS WITH THE UNSINGLE BARREL.



MAX IN HIS T-SHIRT AT THE LINE AND READY TO SHOOT.

**Manufactured Suggested Retail Pricing:**

**SKB85TSS Trap Combo Adjustable Comb** with either the Monte Carlo or standard stock \$3,699

**SKB85TSS Trap Combo Adjustable Comb reduced Length Of Pull (LOP)** with either the Monte Carlo or standard stock has a suggested retail price of \$3,699.00.

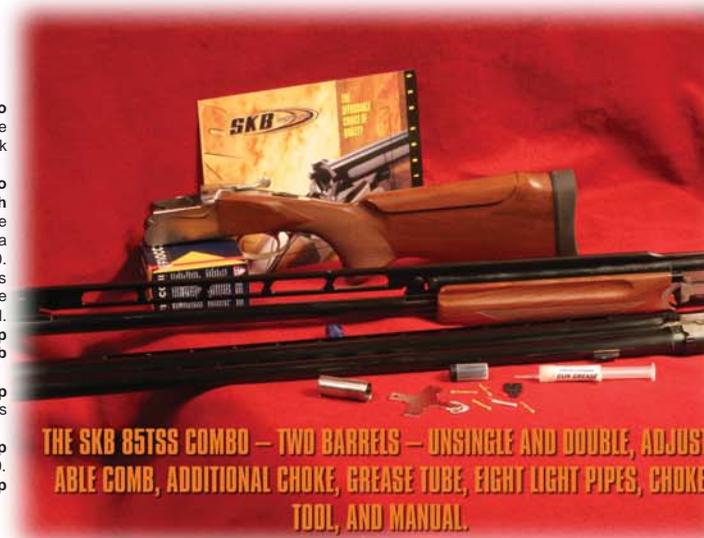
The Combo contains two sets of barrels an Over/Under and the new adjustable rib unsingle barrel.

The separate **SKB85TSS Trap Over/Under adjustable comb** model is \$2,429

The separate **SKB85TSS Trap Unsingle adjustable comb** is \$2,699.

The separate **SKB85TSS Trap Over/Under fixed comb** is \$2,199.

The separate **SKB85TSS Trap Unsingle fixed comb** is \$2,499

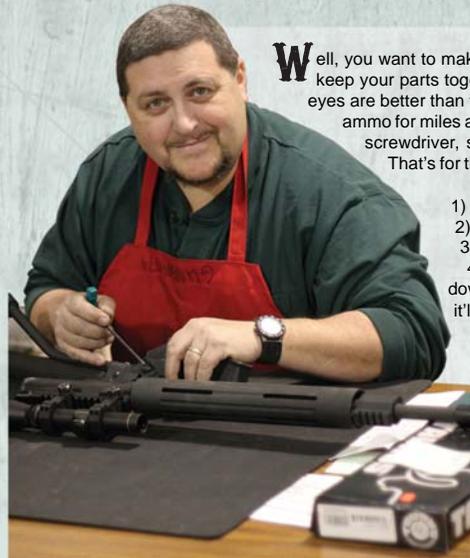


THE SKB 85TSS COMBO - TWO BARRELS - UNSINGLE AND DOUBLE, ADJUSTABLE COMB, ADDITIONAL CHOKE, GREASE TUBE, EIGHT LIGHT PIPES, CHOKE TOOL, AND MANUAL.

# GUNSMITHING

## THE RUGER MKIII TUNE UP

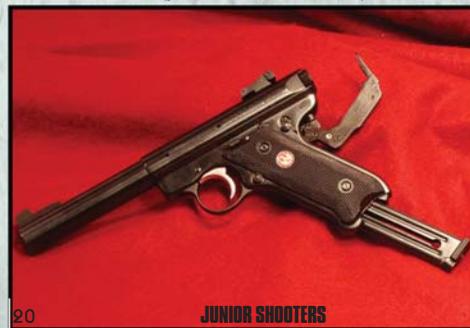
BY: ROBERT "DOC" KRONE



**W**ell, you want to make that MKIII .22 hit the target every time? It's not difficult, just keep your parts together and remember how the stuff comes out of the gun. Four eyes are better than two. Lots of light and a good bench or table works well. No live ammo for miles around as well. You'll need a basic nylon hammer, straight blade screwdriver, some fine polishing stones and a little pick with a notch in it. That's for the spring mod.

- 1) Unload and clear the gun.
- 2) Check it again.
- 3) Make sure the hammer is forward or in the fired position.
- 4) Pull out the take down lever in back and remove the assembly down and out. Don't panic if it's a little snug, just don't pound on it, it'll come.
- 5) Remove magazine.
- 6) Tap the upper end forward, a nylon hammer works well, just a bit tough and remove the top end from the frame.
- 7) Remove the left grip panel.
- 8) Gently push out the hammer pin from right to left but only as far as the safety retains the pin.
- 9) Lift the hammer assembly, along with the magazine, disconnect up out of the frame.
- 10) Stone the hammer notch and polish. Maybe .002. It is always easier to remove metal than replace metal, word to the wise. Stone the sear which is below the hammer, again just slightly.
- 11) Over flex the sear and the magazine disconnect spring legs just a little to remove excess pressure on both. Yes the magazine disconnect may no longer work, Ruger has been

Below: Once you have the rod end sticking out of the top of the slide slightly, point the pistol up, pull the trigger to put the Hammer in the "cocked" position. Make sure the Hammer strut is in the depression on the take down assembly and with the pistol still pointed up, push in and close the assembly. You should be able to operate the action now. With the Hammer in the "fire" position, replace the take down assembly up into the frame. It might need a couple taps from your friend, the Hammer (you remember, the rubber end).



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JUNIOR SHOOTERS



Below: With the top end installed on the frame and tapped back to lock it in, make sure the Hammer is in the "cocked" position and insert the bolt assembly, recoil spring up. This should just slide in. No forcing!

building guns like that for decades, keep your finger off the trigger until you are on target, no other safety has been touched.

12) Replace the trigger spring with a thinner coil spring of equal or maybe two coils longer. This is the spring forward in the frame that is held by the leg of the trigger bar on the right side of the frame inside. Clear as mud right?

13) Pull out the trigger bar and replace the hammer and magazine. Disconnect assembly into the trigger bar hole on the right and slide the whole thing into the frame and align the hammer pin holes and push the hammer pin back into the frame.

14) Replace the left grip panel.

15) Replace the top end on the frame and tap to the rear with that nylon mallet, again, easy now.

16) OK, here's the fun part that has perplexed Ruger shooters for decades; pull the trigger to place the hammer forward, hold the gun barrel down and press the round peg of the take down assembly up into the round hole in the gun. Get it as far up as you can without pulling your hair out, okay so far? Good, so now point the barrel up and pull the trigger to let the hammer back, rotate the take down assembly into the frame, and make sure the hammer strut is back to line up with the mainspring cap indent.

17) Press the bar into the take down assembly and operate the action, all is well, yes?

18) Add some good lube, check all your functions and go enjoy shooting your tuned up Ruger MKIII.

19) Oh yeah, if anytime along the way you said "Yeah, sure, whatever," give me a buzz or an email. I've worked on dozens of these guns over the years.

20) Patience and a little diligence will pay off.

21) Don't worry so much about the "weight" of the trigger in numbers, it's how it feels. It should break like a thin glass rod. Don't know what that feels like? Take a piece of uncooked spaghetti and snap it, something like that.

22) Shoot safe and we'll talk soon.

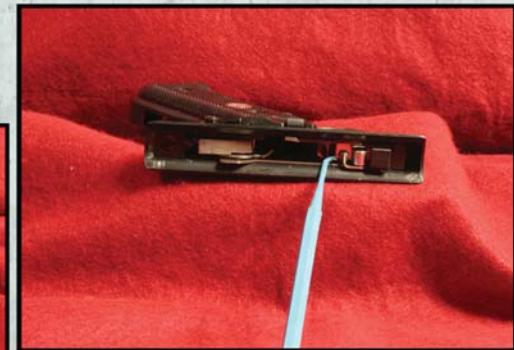
Below - The Ruger MKIII complete, partnered with "Big Green" is an accurate, fun, and inexpensive mode of shooting for all ages.



Above - With the Hammer in the "cocked" position, place the top end on the frame, and slide back, slightly. Use the rubber end of the Hammer and tap the top end a couple times toward the rear of the front to lock in place.



Above - Good trigger jobs do not generally include loosening screws and cutting springs. On these great pistols, smoothing down the Hammer/sear notch is a "feel" thing, not going further than the Hammer pin bushing is usually better.



Above - Replacing the trigger return spring with a lighter one is part of a good trigger job. As with the hammer and most of the internals, it's not for the novice or faint of heart.

SUMMER 2008

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# FIREARMS SAFETY AND YOU!!!

BY LARRY HALEY  
PHOTO COURTESY  
OF THE NWTF

## GO AHEAD SUCKER, MAKE MY DAY!

It is Saturday afternoon. Brothers Sam and Bobby, ages 14 and 12, are at home while their parents are out shopping.

"Bobby, look at what I found!"

"WOW, Sam, where did you get that that?"

"I found it in the ditch by the road as I was walking home."

"What kind is it?"

"I don't know. It was all covered with rust when I found it, so I cleaned it up with a scrub brush dad uses when washing the car. Most of the rust is gone, but I can't see any names or writing on it. It is some kind of an automatic like they use in all of the TV shows."

"Cool...wait a minute, is it loaded?"

"Of course not little brother! I'm not that stupid. Even though Mom and Dad forbid us from being around any guns, I've seen enough on TV to know how to unload one. See...here is how you take the clip out. It had some bullets in it but I took them out."

"What did you do with them?"

"They're hidden in my room where Mom and Dad can't find them."

"Can I hold it?"

"Sure, but don't drop it."

"Pow, pow. Go ahead sucker, make my day! Pow, pow. What are you going to do with it?"

"I'm going to sneak it to school and show my buddies. They will really think I'm something having this."

"It's too bad the trigger doesn't move. It would be more fun if it did."

"Yeah, but it's OK as it is."

Two days later at school.

"That is rad! You are the luckiest person I know, Sam. Let's get together after school and look at it some more."

"Ok, Warren. Let's meet behind the old grocery store."

Later, after school.

"Here Warren, you can hold it."

"This is so neat. Isn't there a thing on the top that is supposed to pull back?"

"I think so, but it is so rusted it won't budge."

"No big deal. This is really awesome. What would your parents do if they knew you had this?"

"My dad would kill me. They don't believe in guns and forbid us to get near them."

"What are you going to do with it?"

"I don't know, play around with it some more and then throw it away."

"Don't do that, I want it."

"OK when I get ready I'll give it to you."

"The trigger doesn't move very much, does it?"

"It didn't work at all at first, but it has started to move some. I'm going to keep working it and see if it will finally work."

Friday evening.

"Sam, I want to hold it."

"Not right now Bobby. I'm working on this trigger."

"Let me do it some."

"In a bit, leave me alone."

"Aw, come on."

"Listen here scum bag! If you don't do as I say I'm gonna put one right through your tucker."

**BLAMMM!!!!**

**"NO, NO, NOOOOOOOO! IT WASN'T LOADED!!!!"**

An interesting story, but it could never happen. No one is that stupid. But it did. A few years ago a 14-year-old boy found a semi-automatic pistol that was covered with rust and did basically what is told in this story. One evening, he pointed the gun at his 12-year-old brother and pulled the trigger. This time the gun fired. There was a round in the chamber that had not been ejected because the slide had not worked. The 14-year-old thought that removing the clip (magazine) meant the gun was empty. It is believed the gun had been cocked the whole time but the rust had kept the firing pin from releasing and striking the round in the chamber. Over time it became free, at exactly the wrong time. Sam's dad didn't kill him, but Sam killed his brother and has to live with that the rest of his life.

So what would you do if you were Sam and found a gun?

What would you do if you were Warren and your friend showed you a gun at school?

Look at the 10 Commandments of Safety below. Which ones were broken in this story?

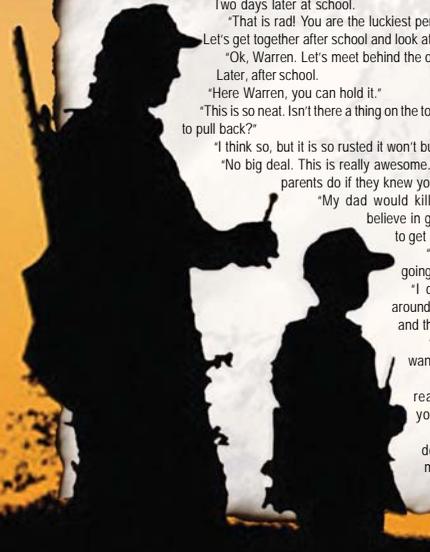
1. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
2. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
3. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
4. Know what is beyond your target.
5. Check your barrel for obstructions and that you have the right ammunition.
6. Unload firearms when not in use.
7. Only point a firearm at something you intend to shoot.
8. Don't run, jump or climb with a loaded firearm.
9. Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely.
10. Avoid alcohol and drugs before and during shooting.

How did you answer finding a firearm? What you should do is leave it alone and contact the police or sheriff's department. No one throws a gun away unless it is stolen or was involved in a crime or an accident. You might help in solving a crime by being a responsible citizen and notifying the authorities.

So which commandants did you decide were broken? I counted four major ones: 1, 2, 3, and 7. Did you pick these? Were there any others? Firearms can be used in many situations for enjoyment. However, they are not the same as toy guns and should not be used as a toy.

Do you have a brother or sister? What if what happened to Bobby happened to them? How would you feel? That never has to happen.

Note: the names in the story are fictional.



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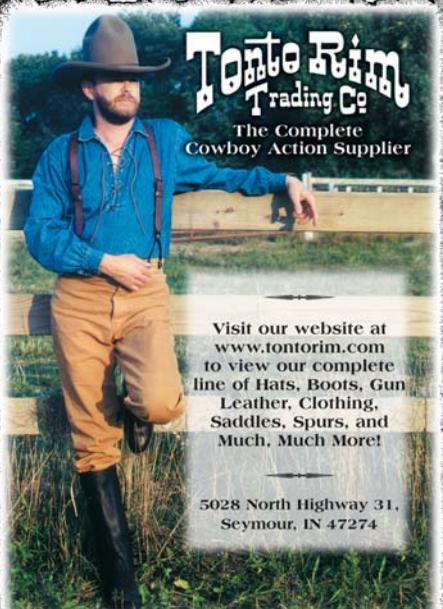
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For Kids  
By Kids

# TY'S TIDBITS

By: Ty Weaver

**M**y name is Ty Jeremy Weaver. I am currently 13 years old and love to hunt and shoot with bow, rifle, pistol, muzzleloader, and muzzleloading pistol. I was born in Lehighton, Pennsylvania and moved to Groves, Texas when I was two. Some folks say that I was born and am growing up in the outdoors because that's where I always seem to be. But if you ask me...I would like to spend even more time in the outdoors.

When I lived in Pennsylvania, I can remember sitting in the woods watching and scouting deer with my Dad when I was two years old. I can remember getting excited when I would spot the deer in the woods. I get that same excitement to this day no matter how big the deer is. Dad started me shooting a small bow and pellet rifle when I was two. The pellet rifle looks funny now because the stock is cut off very short. Back then I thought it was the best gun ever. Even with my little bow, I thought I was ready to hunt bear! Dad would help me shoot the little bow at a foam deer target.

My grandfathers, Pappy Al and Pappy Dotter, are big outdoor influences for me also. Pappy Al taught me how to shoot a rifle and builds custom rifles that shoot cartridges called "wildcats" for me. A "wildcat" is a cartridge that is not standard in a production rifle. Pappy Al did this to create a gun for me when I was three that would not kick real hard but was powerful enough to hunt with. I shot my first deer at age four with that little 6PPC (6 millimeter Palmisano Pindell Cartridge) built on a Remington Model Seven Action. Dr. Louis Palmisano and Ferris Pindell took .220 Russian Brass and necked it up to 6mm and "fire" formed it to make the 6PPC. I practiced with that gun a bunch, I mean a bunch. We would go to the range every weekend all summer and shoot that little rifle at cardboard deer silhouette targets that Dad would make and I would color. When it came time to shoot my first deer with it, I was ready. I noticed one big difference shooting a real deer versus a cardboard one... my heart was pounding out of my chest. When I squeezed the trigger and the deer dropped I yelled, "YES!" My heart was still pumping hard when we got back to camp! The first PPC was introduced at the 1975 Super Shoot in Midland Texas. Today it holds



**Left: I was two years old in Pennsylvania shooting my little bow with my Dad. I don't know the make of the bow but I remember shooting the foam deer with it.**

most of the benchrest world records. It is the most accurate cartridge I have ever shot! Two of my favorite powders for the PPC are AA2230 & AA2460 from Western Powders Inc. Sako produced factory rifles for the PPC cartridges for a few years.

As I grew, Pappy Al would chamber different barrels for me. Today that same Remington action has a .308 barrel on it. The .308 is my favorite caliber. My favorite bullet is the 168-grain Barnes Triple Shock.



**This is me in 2004 at age nine with a 54 inch Kudu Bull. I shot him with a Barnes 168-grain XLC bullet from my Remington Model 7 custom .308. My PH Ranier whispered to me to shoot the bull through the shoulders. I squeezed the trigger and the monster bull dropped at the edge of the waterhole! I hunted with my friends at Limcroma Safaris, South Africa.**

I have taken everything from varmints to monster African Kudu with it.

Pappy Dotter taught me how to shoot a .22 rim-fire and how to hunt those pesky groundhogs in Pennsylvania on his farm. He also comes to Texas every winter and hunts with me. He is a good butcher too.

Every kid should just give .22 plinking a try at least once. It is fun! I now shoot .22 and air rifle 4H competition. I shoot for the Jefferson County Team at the Golden Triangle Gun Club. You can visit our club at [www.gtgctx.org](http://www.gtgctx.org) I am also a very proud NRA member! Everyone should be, please. Competition is fun. It will

also get your heart pumping but you need to control your nerves. I have not mastered nerve control yet. Near the end of the match when I get up to the line my heart will start beating fast every time and sweat rolls down my face...it's an awesome feeling!

My Dad taught me how to bow hunt, which is what I love to do most of all! I can't describe the awesome feeling you get when you place an arrow on target. If you try it just one time you will be hooked. Each fall, Dad and I go to the Bass Pro store in Katy, Texas for the Fall Hunting Classic. We spend two weekends there. We set up a safari booth and I take my bow and talk with kids that visit our booth about archery hunting and shooting. Most of them

go with me to the range in the store and try archery. They love it! I shot my first critter with the bow when I was four, a jackrabbit. I remember that like yesterday. Dad and I stalked it. I was using a little Martin Tiger bow. I remember placing the arrow right in the vitals like you would a deer. The rabbit took a few hops and flipped. I was so proud of that rabbit that I pulled one of my laces from my boot and tied it around two feet of the rabbit and placed it over my shoulder to take it back to camp to show the other hunters. To this day my favorite thing to hunt with my new Martin Leopard bow is rabbits. I think it is because I like stalking them. The excitement of pulling off a successful stalk is unbelievable. I once stalked a grey fox and made a perfect shot on him. He is one of my most prized trophies. I am fortunate enough to have hunted three different countries with my bow, from northern Canada for Bear to South Africa for 2,000 pound Eland.

Now before I go any farther let me clear up a few things. People seem to react differently when they hear about all my adventures and find out that I have harvested over 150 big game animals with bow, rifle, pistol, and muzzleloader. Some are thrilled and say that I generate interest in other kids to seek the outdoors. But some people immediately react and jump to conclusions that I am a spoiled rich kid, born with a silver spoon in my mouth, that I won't appreciate hunting basic game when I get older, and on and on. Please believe me when I say that, yes, I am very fortunate to have a Mom, Dad, and little sister that love the outdoors. Mom is a housewife and Dad works at a chemical plant. Dad always sacrifices and lets me shoot, even in Africa. Dad and I are booking agents for Limcroma Safaris. We earn hunting credits for booking safaris. I mow yards to earn money for airline tickets.

Please keep a positive mind as you read my adventures and be sure to know that I realize how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to do what I do. I love my family more than anything in the whole world.

Stay tuned for stories about adventures to South Africa, Canada, Pennsylvania, Texas, Pike County, Illinois, hunting and shooting rifles, pistols, archery, black powder, and my newest cool thing, hunting with a muzzleloading pistol! I will also write about my favorite adventures in Newton County, Texas shooting rabbits with the bow. Mom has some good recipes for them and Dad makes an awesome gumbo!

I'll also write about my hunt with rock star, Ted Nugent in South Africa and how cool it was to be on his Spirit of The Wild TV show. Speaking of TV shows, In August, 2007 I was on Bass Pro's Next

Generation TV. That was cool. I am doing some final editing on my own DVD. I hope it will get more kids interested in the outdoors and shooting.

I'll do a blip on how I linked up with Big Country Outdoors and a cool company called Crimson Talon Broadheads where I am a Pro Staff Member. I am proud of this company because they have been very nice to my buddy Corey from Pennsylvania. I will be guiding Corey on his wish hunt in March 2008 for wild hogs in Texas with his bow. I will surely write about that adventure!

I will also share some stories behind my seven world record animals taken with bow, muzzleloader, and rifle scored by Trophy Game Records (TGR) of the World Organization. TGR and The Exotic Wildlife Association [www.exoticwildlifeassociation.com](http://www.exoticwildlifeassociation.com) help to organize wish hunts for children that are very ill. Some are terminally ill. I attend their banquet every year and make great friendships. Meeting these great kids and watching the slideshow of their hunts at TGR will make you happy and sad all at the same time.

Wait until you hear about my seven-year-old sister Lynzy Lou's adventures!

Stay tuned. I'm excited to have this opportunity.

I'll leave you with this: "Every kid is waiting to be invited outdoors! Ask them!"

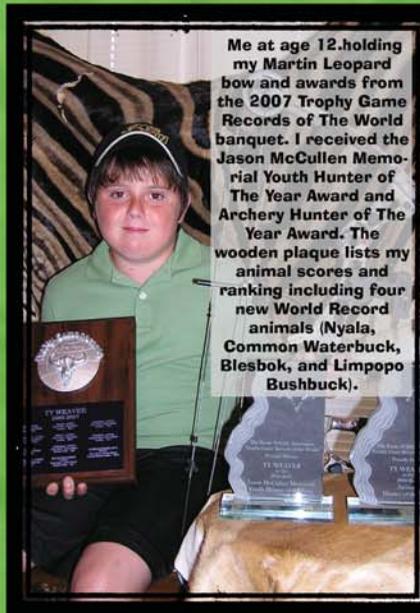
Oh! I need to put a Quick plug in for my school, Groves Middle School, because every now and then I need to sneak out and go hunting!

*Editor's Note: Ty currently holds three bow hunting world records for all ages in the Trophy Game Records of The World scoring system. He also holds one muzzleloader world record and one modern arms world record. Ty was also named the 2007 Archery Hunter of The Year for all ages by Trophy Game Records of The World and was awarded the Jason McCullen Memorial Youth Hunter of The Year award.*

#### Contact Information

Limcroma Safaris - [www.Limcroma.com](http://www.Limcroma.com)  
 Big Country Outdoors - [www.bigcountryoutdoors.com](http://www.bigcountryoutdoors.com)  
 Crimson Talon Broadheads - [www.spintite.com](http://www.spintite.com)  
 The Exotic Wildlife Association - [exoticwildlifeassociation.com](http://exoticwildlifeassociation.com)  
 You can visit Ty's club, the Golden Triangle Gun Club in Texas, at [www.gtgctx.org](http://www.gtgctx.org)

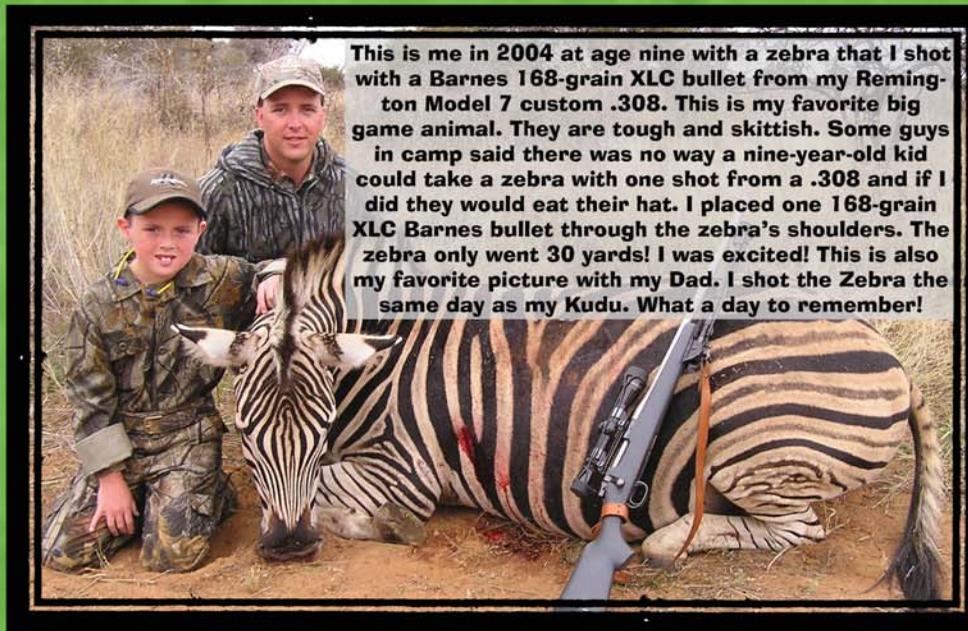
**My custom built rifle with a Remington action in .308, Leupold scope, and Barnes Triple-Shock X-bullets.**



**Me at age 12, holding my Martin Leopard bow and awards from the 2007 Trophy Game Records of The World banquet. I received the Jason McCullen Memorial Youth Hunter of The Year Award and Archery Hunter of The Year Award. The wooden plaque lists my animal scores and ranking including four new World Record animals (Nyala, Common Waterbuck, Blesbok, and Limpopo Bushbuck).**



**This is me at age 11 with a gray fox taken in Newton, Texas with my Martin Leopard bow, Beman carbon arrows, and Crimson Croc broadheads. I am very proud of this trophy. I spotted him a long way off and made a great stalk on him.**



**This is me in 2004 at age nine with a zebra that I shot with a Barnes 168-grain XLC bullet from my Remington Model 7 custom .308. This is my favorite big game animal. They are tough and skittish. Some guys in camp said there was no way a nine-year-old kid could take a zebra with one shot from a .308 and if I did they would eat their hat. I placed one 168-grain XLC Barnes bullet through the zebra's shoulders. The zebra only went 30 yards! I was excited! This is also my favorite picture with my Dad. I shot the Zebra the same day as my Kudu. What a day to remember!**

# BECOMING THE BEST SHOOTER YOU CAN BE

## TIPS & HINTS FOR AIRGUN AND SMALLBORE COMPETITION

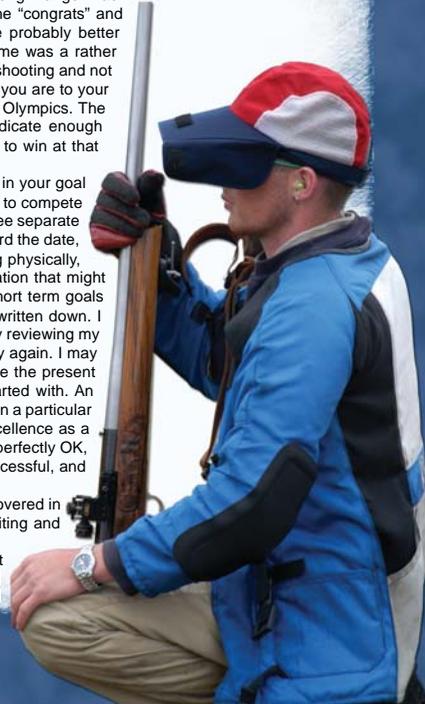
BY- BOB BENBOUGH - COACH BOB

In our last issue of *JUNIOR SHOOTERS* I mentioned the importance of concentrating on the basics in our attempts to become accomplished competitive shooters, whether it be with air guns, smallbore rifles, or whatever shooting sport we are engaged in. But before we get into the basics of the mechanics of shooting, I want to cover what I consider to be far more important if you truly want to excel in your sport. That has to do with the approach you use, in your mind, as you get started and then progress up the ladder of successful competition. At the very beginning of your quest for excellence, you will greatly enhance your chances for that success if you set some goals for yourself. I'm talking here about both short and long term goals. Let me give some examples of both. An appropriate short term goal (if, lets say, you are shooting 65 to 70 points out of a 100 possible in a given position) would be to set a goal for your next practice of shooting at 75. Don't "shoot for the moon" and set a goal too high or you will more than likely fail to reach it and then become discouraged. When you can consistently shoot 75s or above, then raise the bar and make your new goal an 80 for the next practice. An example of a longer term goal might be to shoot a 450 out of a possible 600 in your next match and then another goal for down the road might be to shoot a qualifying score that would garner you an invitation to a national level competition. One point that I'd like to make here, is that your goal setting should always be in relation to your own personal performance, never with the idea of trying to beat someone else. There is absolutely nothing that you can do to affect someone else's performance. Focus only on what you are doing. Some days, you'll have an awesome day at the range and others you won't. That's the day that you win. A few months ago, I was congratulating my friend, Dave Gullo (owner of Buffalo Arms in Ponderay, Idaho) who had just won the World Long Range Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Championships in South Africa. He thanked me for the "congrats" and then said something that really struck home. He said, "You know, there are probably better shooters in the world than me, but they just weren't there that day." That to me was a rather humble way of accepting the fact that he had won by focusing only on his own shooting and not worrying about "the other guy". Depending on how serious and truly dedicated you are to your sport, you may want to set the ultimate goal of competing (and winning) at the Olympics. The reason that few ever accomplish this, however, is that most of us don't dedicate enough attention, time, and practice to honing our technical and mental skills needed to win at that level.

One of the most valuable (and I consider absolutely essential) tools to use in your goal setting is to use a "shooter's diary" every time you put a shot down range. I like to compete in several different shooting games and I now maintain my shooting notes in three separate three-ring binders to keep track of my shooting activities. In them, I always record the date, location, firearm, and ammunition I'm using, my mental state, how I am feeling physically, the weather, if I'm shooting outdoors, range conditions, and any other information that might be helpful when I review my past shooting sessions. Then I write down my short term goals for the next event. You would be amazed at how much is forgotten if it's not written down. I know that over the years I've saved much time and energy (and ammunition) by reviewing my past shooting and rediscovering that I had already done what I was about to try again. I may go ahead and try it again anyway, but then I also have past history to compare the present results to and then I'm able to either confirm or refute the assumption I'd started with. An example of that might be trying to decide which type of ammunition shoots best in a particular air rifle or smallbore rifle. Goal setting is a vital step in progressing toward excellence as a competitor. For those of us who do not aspire to become champions, which is perfectly OK, setting goals is still most important. Actually it's important in living a happy, successful, and meaningful life as well.

I'll encourage you once again to send in any topics that you'd like to have covered in this column. We want *JUNIOR SHOOTERS* to answer your questions about this exciting and challenging sport, so don't be bashful.

Until next time: Be safe, shoot straight, and have a great time! Contact me at [bbenbough@juniorshooters.net](mailto:bbenbough@juniorshooters.net).



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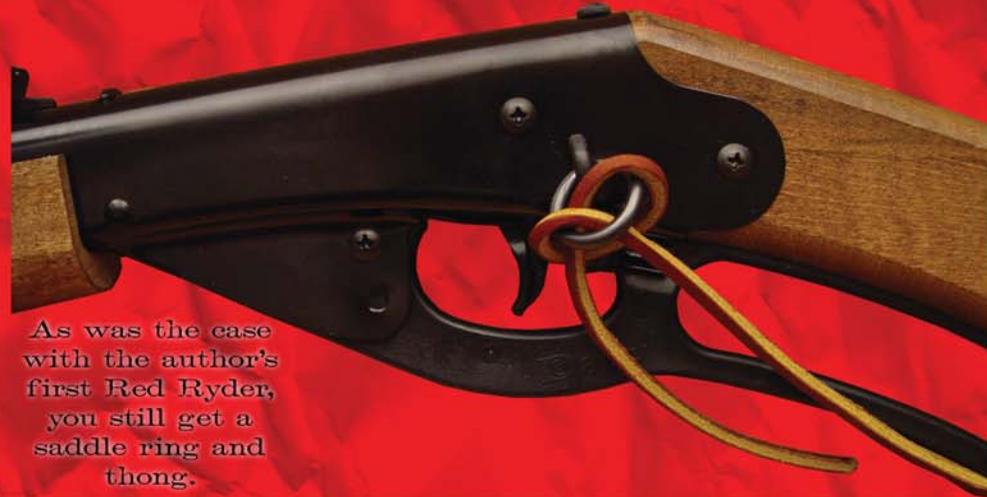


The Daisy

RED RYDER

Air Rifle

By: Ray Walters



As was the case with the author's first Red Ryder, you still get a saddle ring and thong.

The Daisy Red Ryder air rifle, or "BB" gun as I knew it, was and is truly something that legends are made of. In 1882, the Daisy Company was in the business of building and selling wind mills and as a promotional gimmick they started giving BB guns away with the purchase of a wind mill. Their guns were so popular that they soon stopped the wind mill production in favor of selling their BB guns. In 1938, the Red Ryder BB gun was born, named after the fictional comic

Andy's first shots with his Red Ryder.



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That highly successful comic strip soon spawned the Western television series *Red Ryder* which played on the small screen from 1940 to 1950. On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1942 the Red Ryder character had been adapted to the medium of radio on the Blue Network, broadcast three times a week at 7:30 p.m. Pacific Time. At the same time Blue acquired the Lone Ranger series and interestingly enough Red Ryder actually beat the masked man in the Hooper ratings that first year but the success was short-lived due to Red Ryder being cancelled in 1951 on the East coast. Even though the TV program ended in 1950, radio broadcasts stopped in 1951, and the comic strip was cancelled in 1963, the venerable old Red Ryder BB gun lives on to this day, arguably the most famous BB gun ever made.

The 1983 movie *A Christmas Story* was right out of my childhood. In that movie a young man wants a Red Ryder BB gun more than anything for Christmas and over the fears of his mother worrying that "he'll shoot his eye out", he finds a Red Ryder under the Christmas tree thanks to his dad. That, to me was the perfect gift.

As a youngster fascinated with the hunting stories that my father, grandfather, and uncles told, I couldn't wait to get a gun, any gun, of my own. By the time I was five years old my mom finally gave in to my dad's earnest desire to get me a Red Ryder for Christmas and from that day on the sparrows and blackbirds at my grandfather's farm were in deep trouble. I wouldn't try to guess how many copper coated, steel BBs I shot through that first rifle but it was in the thousands. By the time the next Christmas rolled around, I had literally worn that Red Ryder out and sure enough, on Christmas morning 1953, there was another long, slender box under the tree with my name on it. Another Red Ryder BB gun to replace that first one. This scene was repeated for the next four or five Christmases, a situation that was good for me and my parents. I knew I would be getting a new Red Ryder for Christmas and my folks knew they didn't have to do a lot of thinking about what to get their youngest son.

Our Editor-In-Chief's grandson, Andy Fink V, got his first Red Ryder just before his 10th Birthday. Though he had just started shooting cowboy fast draw with a Beretta Stampede .45 Colt and wax bullets this was his first rifle. He was very excited and the concentration he showed while loading and shooting was excellent. He was very pleased with his first shots and couldn't wait to shoot again.

Today's Red Ryder is built better and shoots faster than the ones I had in my youth. The lever-action spring/piston powered rifle fires a .177" steel BB at about 290 feet per second (fps) through a smooth bore barrel that is remarkably accurate. Still going strong after more than 70 years, the Red Ryder is found under thousands of Christmas trees each year. Daisy sponsors BB gun competitions across the country each year and even makes a target version of this greatest of all BB rifles. I hope that this one lives on forever. Every youngster should have the thrill that I got each Christmas morning when "Santa" delivered exactly what I wanted. How did he know?



Above: The mandatory warning information on the barrel.

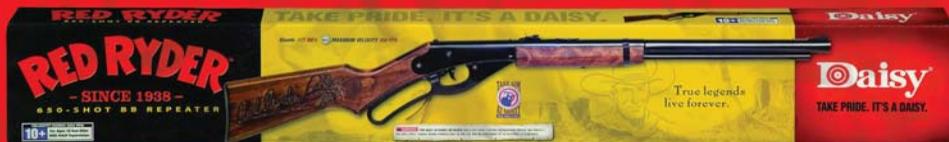


Above: Loading port on the left side of the barrel near the muzzle.



Above: Andy cocking his Red Ryder with muzzle pointed safely down range.

Below: The Red Ryder comes in this colorful box.



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**The Best... By a Long Shot!**

# The National SCTP Championship

By: Bill Dunn



# Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays



The country's biggest youth shotgun competition is about to get bigger! To kick off the 2008 Grand American in Sparta, Illinois., the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) will hold a mega-competition that will combine trapshooting, skeet, and sporting clays.

This year's super-sized SCTP competition will be held July 31 through Aug. 5 at Illinois' World Shooting and Recreational Complex. The competition will feature SCTP teams from across the country.

For those new to the clay target sports world, SCTP is a fast-growing national program that gives young shotgunners in elementary school through high school the chance to compete as a team for state and national championships in the clay target sports. The program has skyrocketed in popularity over the past few years, and nearly 24,000 young people have participated since its first year in 2000.

## More Sports, More Fun

"This is the first time that trap, skeet, and sporting clays national titles will be decided at a single SCTP event," said Zach Snow, NSSF's senior shooting promotions coordinator.

In past years, trapshooting nationals have been held at the Grand, but skeet and sporting clays nationals have been held at various other locations.

Snow said that combining the three championships will allow more young competitors to shoot any or all three sports in one location. It also encourages more participation throughout the year in all the shooting disciplines.

"This format will not only benefit multi-discipline shooters, but it will also provide those who haven't had the opportunity to try the other sports to give them a shot," Snow said. "After all, the best way to become a great all-round shooter is by learning all the other sports."

The three-sport format will also bring new faces to Sparta, which is an ideal location for a competition of this magnitude, Snow said.

"Sparta is a first-class facility," Snow said. "It has hosted not only the largest shoot in the world – the Grand American – but also a number of other top-level national and state sporting clays and skeet events."

## Shoot 'Til You Shop

In addition to getting to shoot three sports at one of the world's premier shooting facilities, SCTP shooters and their families will have plenty of shopping opportunities at the SCTP championships.

Companies throughout the shooting world will set up shop on the complex's Vendor Row, and tent vendors selling everything from food and cold drinks to shooting supplies and clothing will line the fields.

"This event will give many new SCTP families a chance to walk up and down Vendor Row and see the tremendous support this industry has for them," said Snow.

## The Lowdown on Competition and Practice

The 2008 SCTP National Championships will begin on July 31 with registration and practice for skeet and sporting clays. Skeet and sporting clays competition will be held August 1 and 2. Registration and practice for the trap nationals will be August 3, with the event being shot August 4 and 5.

There will be two sporting clays courses – one solely for practice and one for competition. Skeet and trap shooters will also be given plenty of practice opportunities throughout their events.

Last year, more than 1,600 young trap shooters traveled with their families to Sparta to compete in the 2007 SCTP Trap Nationals, so a similar-sized crowd is expected.

"This really is the Super Bowl of youth shooting sports," said Snow. "If you haven't already signed up an SCTP team for the 2008 season, there's no time to present to get in on the fun."

## Learn More About SCTP

Now active in 44 states, SCTP has been called "the Little League of shooting sports." The program is designed to instill in participants safe firearms handling, commitment, responsibility, leadership, and teamwork.

To learn more about forming a new team or joining an existing SCTP team, contact Dianne Vrablic, NSSF's promotions and special events coordinator, at (203)426-1320, or email [dvrablic@nssf.org](mailto:dvrablic@nssf.org).

To learn more about SCTP online, visit [www.nssf.org/sctp](http://www.nssf.org/sctp).

