

Jefferson Gun Club

Newsletter, March 2011

Welcome to the 2011 year. The board has had their first meeting, and do we have a full year ahead of us! By the time you get this letter the pancake league will be over, and we will have had our first private shoot the (CCBTA). I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the members for the help last year and for the coming year. I know the pay is very little and you just cannot seem to get fired, but without your help we could not afford to grow the way we have these last few years.

There are some great expectations this year for our skeet and sporting clays shooters, and with your help I'm sure they will happen. In the month of March we will have our first skeet shoot of 4 (maybe 5, counting the State): The Kentucky Central Zone Warm up -4 gun / 50 targets March 19th.

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April 2nd the club will have a cleanup day. We start at 8:00 am and lunch will be provided. Please come out and help make the club look its best for all the visitors we are sure to have this spring.

In April the summer leagues start: Quail Forever starts April 6th and the Sporting Ventures start April 13th.

April 9th, the Ford March of Dimes charity shoot (100/ sporting clays) starts at 9:00am.

April 15-17th is the Kentucky Central Zone.

New this year: May 13-15, a sporting clays shoot, The Derby Classic.

Now that the weather seems to be improving we hope to see more of you all out enjoying our great club.

On the next three pages, Matt Foster outlines the upcoming skeet program for 2011 in more detail.

Jefferson Gun Club Skeet Program for 2011

With our first club newsletter of the year, I thought it would be appropriate to use this opportunity to outline plans for our 2011 Skeet Program. But before I do, I'd like to say a few words about my perspective of the club and its membership since I've re-joined after about 10 years away from things. Very shortly after returning to shooting and coming out to the club on a weekly basis, I was pleased to get reacquainted with some old faces and quickly made friends with new ones. But it didn't take long to notice The Jefferson Gun Club was now very different from the one I remember. Most notably was the sense of enthusiasm and volunteerism that seemed to permeate the club and its membership: members loading targets in the houses, members setting new sporting clays presentations, members fixing mechanical issues with equipment, members organizing and managing leagues, and members being proactive in all aspects of the operation of our club. While it's true that there were always certain members doing these things in the past, the club I returned to felt like the majority of its members were actively engaged in its well being. I'm convinced this is the primary reason the club has come back from the darker days in my memory to re-emerge as such a vibrant and healthy organization. When I was asked if I would be willing to help with our Skeet Program this year, the example being set by many of you was impossible for me to ignore, and I realized that this was an opportunity for me to contribute in kind.

For 2011 in addition to hosting many of the same skeet tournaments as we did last year, we're introducing (or perhaps I should say re-introducing) a new one. One of our shoots from last year will be re-tooled as a 4 gun /50 target, one-day shoot. Many clubs across the country have started to use this "mini tournament" format as a way to address the inability of many shooters to devote the entire weekend demanded by a traditional 4 gun / 100 target shoot. We'll be very curious regarding the feedback we receive, and if positive, this might be a manageable way for us to host more regular shoots next year.

We will be re-instituting some of the older "options" commonly seen in skeet from years ago, but seldom seen nowadays. If terms like "Champions Purse", "Champ of Champs", "3-Man Blind", and "Handicap Calcutta" don't sound familiar, you'll have an opportunity to get to know more about them while helping to celebrate some of our skeet heritage.

We will be attempting to assemble a Club 5-man Skeet Team to not only represent The Jefferson Gun Club while competing at other clubs' shoots around the state and surrounding area, but also to work towards the goal of returning the Kentucky State Championship Trophy back to our club, where it belongs! This will be a fun way to compete, visit other clubs, and meet others in the skeet community, all while representing our club and getting in some additional shooting you might not have otherwise.

And finally, we will be allowing members to register their skeet targets throughout the year. These are known as "Monthly Targets" and they count towards your running averages in the same way that tournament targets do. Registering skeet targets is easy and requirements are few. You need to be a paid up member of the NSSA and KSSA (both of which the club can accommodate if need be), and you need to declare before shooting that you will be registering your targets. There is a simple form that needs to be filled out, and someone behind the counter can help you with this. Then you need to go out and shoot your targets, keeping score on a standard skeet score sheet. Turn in your score sheet after shooting, making sure to also record your results on your personal NSSA Scorecard. That's it. Registering 100 skeet targets for club members costs \$18.00, plus daily fees of \$3.00 for the NSSA and \$1.00 for the KSSA. You can also choose to shoot 50 targets, if you would prefer. Monthly targets will be submitted to the NSSA at the end of each month. So the next time you come out to the club to shoot some skeet, for \$4.00 more you can register those same targets. They count towards your average, they count towards your yearly minimums, and they count towards your lifetime totals! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Here are the current tournament dates for our 2011 Skeet Calendar:

Saturday, 3/19/2011
Kentucky Central Zone Warmup – 4 gun / 50 targets

Friday, 4/15/2011 – Sunday, 4/17/2011
Kentucky Central Zone – 5 gun / 100 targets

Saturday, 6/18/2011 – Sunday, 6/19/2011
Carroll Downey Memorial – 4 gun / 100 targets

Friday, 10/21/2011 – Sunday, 10/23/2011
The Mattster's v2.0 – 5 gun / 100 targets

Also, it's very likely Jefferson Gun Club will once again host the Kentucky State Shoot and we will make an announcement once this has been finalized and date has been set.

Monthly registered targets can be shot during any month from January – October of 2011. All registered targets shot during any one month will be reported at the end of that month.

I'm personally very excited about the coming skeet year here at the club. I think we'll have a lot of fun, while hopefully getting some new shooters involved in the sport, as well as encouraging existing shooters from other clubs to stop by and see what we have to offer. Scotty Cantway and I will be working together to see that things run smoothly. Any skeet related questions or concerns can be directed to either one of us and we will do our very best to address them.

We will also be needing members to help out during each of our scheduled shoots to prepare the skeet fields in the morning, help with shooter registration, keep the houses loaded, and to act as referees. Anyone willing and able to do any of these things, please let us know. It will save us all from the awkward moment that will come when Scotty and I start putting the bite on some of you to help out!

In conclusion, I'd like to personally thank the many members who have enabled the rest of us to enjoy the privilege of competing in skeet tournaments at our club. It's sometimes easy for the rest of us to forget that the successful running of a tournament often precludes those people from actually being able to shoot in the tournament. I'm viewing Scotty's and my involvement as an opportunity for these guys to take a break and start to enjoy some of the fruits of their hard work. Shoot well guys!

Matt Foster 2/9/2011

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