

RELOAD!
Newsletter of the Connecticut Travelers Sporting Clays Association

JULY 2006 NEWSLETTER

© Phil Steinkraus, Editor

LAVERT CYPHER IS CTSCA CLUB CHAMPION... AGAIN!

By Stefanie Steinkraus

Nearly one hundred Travelers competed for that most prestigious of CTSCA titles: the overall club Champion, on Sunday, June 11th at Mid-Hudson Sporting Grounds in New Paltz, NY.

The day gave us a promising start – only a few clouds and the temperature was in the 60's. My husband, our houseguest, Traveler's Junior Ben Slome and I decided it was time to get the short pants out for the season – boy, were we wrong. Sunday was also our first annual Swap Meet which was a good excuse to clean out your gun closet and swap your brick-a-brack for someone else's. The few tables Mid-Hudson had set up for the swap meet were soon overflowing with items ranging from guns, ammo, instructional videos to gun cases and barrels.

Bruce Galotto greeted the attending Travelers and after giving us the safety low-down reminded everybody that eye and ear protection are always mandatory and off we went!

We began on eight, which wasn't the easiest, but after I had shot the whole course I decided we had actually been lucky. Squadmates included Lavert Cypher and his magical Winchester Model 21 – I hear there is hope of dragging him into the second half of the 20th century as he is currently trying a Remington 1100. Maybe somebody else out there will have a chance of winning while he sorts that new autoloader! I mentioned earlier I was brave (foolish) enough to start the day in shorts – at the turn from station fifteen back to one I made a brief stop at the car to change – goose bumps and cold fingers don't do my shooting any good. Not only did the steady blow chill me to the bone but it also moved the targets all over the lot.

We shot 15 wooded stations that included six simo pairs. They were all very well thought out and I witnessed more than one person's indecisiveness as to which target to take first. The first simo we encountered was Station nine with a fast, rising right-to-left crosser and an incomer that, if waited on, disappeared behind a wall of leaves. Trouble was that you wanted to shoot the crosser almost at its peak to really be able to have a measured shot, but with the incomer being so close and the risk of it disappearing, you had to push yourself to pull that trigger early. Frankie H was also on my squad. Let me tell you – for a Super Vet- he hasn't lost a step. He pointed his Browning auto-loader at the halfway point of the flight path and crushed the crosser so fast that he had plenty time for the incomer. As usual when the weather doesn't know if it wants to rain or the sun to shine and there are those cumuli in the sky, the light changed at almost every station but Lavert and the others seemed to have laser vision and picked one bird after the other out of the difficult light.

At our sixth station I melted down in a China syndrome when I missed all but one target. It was station 13 with the slow incomer and the crooked, right-to-left, high crosser/outgoer. Nevertheless, I immensely enjoyed the targets! Station fourteen deserves a special mention as the looper from left to right with the Dinner-plate size incomer was truly an exercise in precision. It was a simo pair and you had to be quick with the orange looper at about 30 yards only to have to almost stop your gun and rifle-shoot the incomer that then was at twelve yards from the end of your barrel. Several stations were rifle shots, as you had to be careful not to give too much lead (I closed one eye on those).

Station four probably had the longest target of the day. The first clay was a left-to-right, trap shot which started in the trees just off to your left. The second target appeared to be a fast, low, right-to-left

crosser at 45 yards. If you looked closely though it was a not so straight, loopy medium speed standard. Even Lavert had trouble killing it. Yours truly killed it every time by simply staying under the target and giving it nice gun speed.

At station six there was a backup so we had a chance to see two squads shoot the simo pair; a teal-like going away standard paired with a curling right to left incomer. Peter Wicker was sitting on his ATV watching as people shot the teal first and then attacked the incomer which, by the time you pulled the trigger, was so close your pattern was the size of a cantaloupe melon and the target was ready for nesting in the brush. Adventurous as my squad was, half of us shot it the other way, attacking the crosser first and shooting the teal as a dropper. Peter later remarked that he had intentionally set the pair with the crosser to be shot first – that just goes to show you that many pairs are intended to be shot differently than we shoot them, so next time you have a problem with a simo pair, see if the other way around works better.

We were all back at the clubhouse by one o'clock and the question I heard asked repeatedly was "what's your score?" It soon became clear that, once again, Lavert had done it. With a raw score of 86 plus the five target handicap for his side-by-side, he had taken the club championship with an adjusted score of 91.

Some special recognition is deserved for Kristen Canale who won the ladies with a great score of 85 – well shot, Kristen! Ben Slome won the juniors with a 75 – way to go, kid!

All in all, the shoot was a great success, the Swap Meet went over well and many Travelers went home with either a trophy (or two) or a new gadget for the gun room. Thank you to the Mid-Hudson team who ensured a smooth shoot and a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Congratulations to all!

HOA	Lavert Cypher	91
Cl. 1 Champ.	Russ Tagliareni	90
Cl. 1 RU	Kurt Anderson	82
Cl. 1 3 rd	Ted Burke	79
Cl. 2 Champ.	Kevin Goodspeed	87
Cl. 2 RU	Preston Moore	86
Cl. 2 3 rd	John Lawlor	84
Cl. 3 Champ.	Mike Boffalo	82
Cl. 3 RU	Fred Roesslein	79
Cl. 3 3 rd	Peter Klein	78
Cl. 4 Champ.	Edie Ellis	75
Cl. 4 RU	Dick Orenstein	73
Cl. 4 3 rd	Don Talias	71
Cl. 5 Champ.	Nile Pullin	67
Cl. 5 RU	Richard Horn	63
Cl. 5 3 rd	Vince Repaci	61
Lady Champ.	Kristen Canale	85
Lady RU	Suzie Clarke	74
Lady 3 rd	Paula Moore	73
Vet. Champ.	Bruce Galotto	89
Vet. RU	Doug Moore	86
Vet. 3 rd	Joe Lachick	83
SenVet.Champ	Eddie Moritt	80
Junior Champ	Ben Slome	75
Junior RU	Max Hachmann	65
Junior 3 rd	Kristen Hachmann	55
Guest Champ	Jean du Lau	91

A HARD DAY'S FITASC

By Ben Slome

Thursday June 8th through Saturday June 10th, the Connecticut Travelers held their 2006 Club FITASC Championship at Mid-Hudson Sporting Grounds. Weather threatened the whole weekend: you could see storms forming all around us and there were times when it clouded over and a downpour looked guaranteed but we somehow lucked out and escaped the rain (perhaps that's payback for Newgate—and yes, it really was that bad!) even though some of us had plenty to complain about with the big wind on Saturday.

Flight times for this event were 9:30, 12:00 and 2:30 and overcast light and gusty winds late in the afternoon just about made that D and F bird on Parcour three impossible to hit. (By the way--Jimmy Muller--I hit that bird once!) Overall, for a kid new to FITASC this event was a real doozie! The whole time I was shooting, I kept thinking to myself *Is the World FITASC Championship in Minnesota going to be as bad as this?* But squadmates Phil and Stefanie Steinkraus read my mind and said *Don't worry the Worlds won't be nearly as bad as this.* (So I lied to the kid!--*Editor*) Their reassuring words calmed me down and I started breaking a lot more targets. For those of you who just happened to glance at the score board, that friendly advice didn't come in time to impact my score, but parcour three reminded me a lot of the Fairfield Gaitor shoot where the targets were set by Jean de Lau and everyone shot really low scores--that was a tough act to follow, but Mid-Hudson came close!

Let me take a moment now for those who may be less familiar with the variations in disciplines to explain the differences between FITASC and sporting clays. FITASC has many more rules and regulations that must be followed strictly and put a sporting clays shooter like myself at a great disadvantage. The most important rule in FITASC is probably that you must have a distinct line across your breast on your vest or clothing to mark the point where the buttstock of the gun can't be raised above at the low-gun "ready" position. Another rule is you may not pre-mount or even start to mount your gun until the bird is in sight. In sporting clays by contrast, the only rule seems that eye and ear protection is mandatory, and gun safety always takes top priority.

So, back to the targets. Parcour one was my favorite. The targets weren't easy, but they weren't that hard either and I loved shooting the A bird from the left and the B bird which was a tricky little left-to-right crosser that really rocked me. My favorite target, however, was the chandelle from the left. I missed every single one, but still had a blast shooting it. I also enjoyed the quartering incomer but that wasn't anything out of the ordinary. On parcour two I was making the same stupid mistakes everyone else did, but the worst thing I did was beat myself up about it. We shot with Keith Lupton for that one and we were the last squad out. He wanted to "Jump in and break a couple," and the main thing he kept telling me after I would throw a "target tantrum" was "Calm down. Stop beating yourself up about it, and just break some targets." That's exactly what happened and I finished up that one with a 15, which I wasn't really happy about before Frankie H. told me that that was a good score for that layout.

The mother of FITASC parcourses for this event was three and I've got to confess it was the most fun I've ever had shooting. Before I go any further, let's get something straight: Enjoying targets and shooting them well are two very different things! The A bird, the D bird and the mama F battue, were the most memorable targets I've shot at. Of 65 total FITASC entries, only 4 managed to hit that F bird. I find it amazing that a target can be so hard to figure out for so many experienced guns--it's an incredible target that will be one for the history books of the Connecticut Travelers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to give Mid-Hudson this shooter's salute for the fantastic targets and challenging and creative parcourses, also to Joe, I mean Mike Canale, a congrats on his fabulous shooting on that breath-taking parcourse, and to Kristen Canale for breaking an 85 on Sunday earning her sporting lady's champ.

HOA	Mike Canale
Ladies Champ	Paula Moore

Junior Champ	Ben Slome
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As you can see we are missing results! If you know who won or you are the lucky one please e-mail us name, class and result at philistein@aol.com and I will make sure to get the list out with next month's *RELOAD*. Sorry!

TRAVELERS DONATE VESTS TO SHOOTING SCHOLARS

By Al Anglace

The Ye Olde Newgate Coon Club sponsored Scholastic Clay Shooting Program Team of fifteen young shooters, were the recipients of complimentary shooting vests from the Connecticut Travelers. Their Team name, "The Northwest Connecticut Clay Busters" was embroidered on the upper back panel and the program logo was sewed onto the lower back panel. The National Shooting Sports Foundation founded the program that is now promoted nationally by the National Sporting Clays Association.

An invitation was extended for the Team to join us at our July Shoot so our club members can see first hand what a great bunch of youngsters this Team consists of. They are also the future of our great shotgun heritage.

As is the situation with most young people trying to participate in our sport, funding is needed to assist them for the purpose of purchasing ammunition. If you feel you would like to sponsor a youngster by making a donation of cash or ammunition, kindly contact Al Anglace for details at 203 417-6295 or e-mail aaa738@aol.com.

GREAT EASTERN LOBSTER CLASSIC FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

We've made arrangements for a private room for dinner on Friday night, August 11th, at 6.30 pm for Travelers and their guests. Dinner will be at Villa Santini, 1861 Smith Street, North Providence, RI, (401.354.6262) (It's about 6 miles from the Comfort Suites in Smithfield). Everyone can order off of the menu and we'll split the bill so please bring cash (there may be too many of us for the restaurant to provide separate checks). There will also be a separate cash bar.

If you want to join us, please let Bob Schrage and Gwyn Grant know by August 4th so we can give the restaurant an idea as to numbers. You can either email Bob, robert@schrager.org (please put CTSCA in the subject-line) or drop them a note, 17 Hartford Avenue, Greenwich CT 06830.

CLUB HISTORIAN

By John M. Hachmann

When I sat down and prepared myself for writing this column, I immediately recalled last year's Sandanona Shoot. I haven't even consulted the spreadsheet where I keep my shoot records but I remember the rain storm that begun as I made the turn into Sandanona's parking lot like it was yesterday. The rain started innocently enough but got steadily worse as zero hour approached, and I remember how we all huddled under the cover of the pavilion just hoping for a break in weather, and then the "All Mighty Al" said something like "Fear not, we will have a two hour clearing starting at 11:00AM". I know you're laughing knowingly as you read this, because you remember it too. And exactly the way I just stated it—the rain stopped for two hours starting at eleven! How did he do that? Then it started to rain again just as the last of us got off of the course and sat down to lunch! El Presidente's sure got some big connections!

This year we will meet on July 16th for our 2006 Summertime / Summertime Shoot, once again to be hosted by Orvis / Sandanona. I suspect that this year arrangements have been made in advance for perfect weather, but fear not: Come out and join us on July 16th and bring a raincoat--just in case.

Reviewing my records I see that we have endured many hot and humid summer days at Orvis. That's July for you. I also see that this is probably on of our most popular shoots. According to my numbers, as many as 199 shooters have joined the CTSCA to shoot at Orvis. That's a lot of shooters. Average turnout over an eight-year period is 139. This is definitely a shoot that you do not want to miss.

Last year Paul Fostini earned bragging rights with an impressive score of 83, followed close behind by Jim Kline with an 82 and Ed Shine with an 81.

Let's take a look at Averages by Class for the past Summertime / Summertime shoots.

H.O.A. - Average for the years 1997 to 2004 = 84
 Class 1 - Average for the years 1997 to 2004 = 78
 Class 2 - Average for the years 1997 to 2004 = 77
 Class 3 - Average for the years 1997 to 2004 = 70
 Class 4 - Average for the years 1997 to 2004 = 65
 Class 5 - Average for the years 1997 to 2004 = 60
 Ladies - Average for the years 1997 to 2004 = 63
 Veterans - Average for the years '97 to 2004 = 75
 Juniors - Average for the years 1997 to 2004 = 55

Hope to see you all at the July 16th Orvis / Sandanona event.

GROWING PAINS

By Phil Steinkraus

Once a year, the President of the United States is obliged to address the congress regarding the State of the Union of these United States. I'm surely not a member of the executive branch but as I'm a little over a year into my editorship of *Reload*, I thought I'd give you a rundown on the current state of this publication—to which it feels at times I'm joined at the hip!

In the past year, we've changed an awful lot about *Reload*. First off, it has gone from being one man's brainchild and labor of love to being largely a group effort by a staff of writers and reporters. The editor's job is now largely just that--editing other's work as well as contributing articles. I've tried to make *Reload* into a publication that's informative, well written and as often as possible, better than one would expect it to be. I regard *Reload* as much more than a newsletter: It is an institution in and of itself and I'm resistant to any changes that make it less, rather than more of a publication.

We've radically changed how *Reload* is distributed going from an entirely printed hard-copy format which was then mailed to members, to a predominantly e-mail edition which is sent instantaneously through the ether right onto your hard drive. I will confess that I hated the idea of the e-mail issue at first. My attitude was if it ain't broke--don't fix it. It was at our President's urging and the consideration of the savings on postage that convinced me that a paperless *Reload* was worth a try. It seems that we now find ourselves in a kind of cyber space/hard-copy limbo. The e-mail edition seems to work well enough--when people receive it--but software and operating platform compatibility issues have meant many people have never been able to handle the PDF file format that was chosen (not by me) for *Reload*—but at least it was instantaneous for those who could open it.

The paper issue of *Reload* is about to see even more changes. The legal sized document we've come to love will be reduced to four pages of 8.5 x 11 because unknown to me, all those big sheets had to be stuffed into that little blue envelope by a human hand—every sheet, every month, every year! If we reduce the format size, stuffing all those pages can be automated, thus reducing labor and time. As we are reducing the format of the book, we will also simultaneously redesign it, hopefully adding a new smaller header graphic to allow for more flexibility with editorial content. This reduction in size also means that

my wife only has to format and flow Reload once for the e-mail, printed and Shotgun Report versions, instead of the three times that she's currently doing.

Last month many--if not most--of you who are on the hard copy subscription didn't receive your issue before the start of the June 8th FITASC and club Championship weekend. That's the second time something like this has happened since I've been running things—a mistake which I can never recall happening on editor Buck's watch. That said it's also true that in Bruce's day the Travelers most often reserved the third Sunday of each month as their semi-permanent shoot date. This was dramatically changed after our President recognized that conflicts with other events were killing our turnout and that a more prudent approach was to intentionally schedule to avoid conflicting with big regional events. That change resulted in a situation like last month where the CTSCA May Minuet was run on May 21st and the Club Championships ran June 8th-11th. That 2 1/2 week window seems like plenty of time to put Reload together—and it is—at least for the E-mail edition which should have arrived on your computer June first. The printed issue was a very different story, however. Because the June issue was filed from a slow European phone line, it needed the header graphic to be added after the fact in the states—this took time. Next, it needed to be printed and the envelopes stuffed, after which it was physically delivered by your friendly neighborhood non-gender-specific postal person. If you live in the sticks however, that process alone can take up to a week. Add to this postal delivery time to return the entry form back to Valley Dodge and anyone can see that the logistics of the June issue weren't just difficult—they were impossible.

It is for this reason that I will now plead with all of you who take the mailed printed edition to switch to the e-mail version post-haste. I loved the old Reload and always looked forward to receiving that blue envelope every month whereby I would immediately and frantically rip it open to see just how much fat Mr. Buck had rendered from my copy. As soon as I became editor, however, and became aware of the cost, time and needless manual labor required to put the four-page legal sized-edition together, I immediately became a proponent of the e-mail version. Members who insist on continuing to take the printed version of Reload—especially those in rural areas with already slow postal service—may continue to experience problems with this publication (if you want to switch to e-mail contact Dick Orenstein at oren@umich.edu)

I count myself as one of a last generation of largely illiterate adults when it comes to computer technology (that's why I married a woman eleven years my junior who has those requisite skills). I sympathize with those of you who are uneasy with the internet and e-mail: It is only because of Stefanie's skills that I am able to function as editor for Reload and a freelance writer for other publications. That said, if I've figured out a way to navigate this demonic technology, then the rest of you can damned well make the effort too!

Starting with this issue, Reload will be sent via e-mail as a Word document. If you don't have Word—get it! It's only *the* dominant word processing software world-wide and if you're planning on communicating with other people then it'll come in handy—trust me! If you're on Mac and don't have compatible software, then I suggest you pack your 24-gauge shotgun, beta-max entertainment system and vinyl record album collection into your Citroen DS with the pneumatic suspension and move to a community that will properly value your individuality and quirkiness—perhaps the Netherlands! If however you'd like to build a bridge to mainstream society, my wife tells me you can easily download software that will allow you to read Word.

I had a long meeting with Al on Championship Sunday. He was quite ready to scrap the e-mail edition altogether. I barely persuaded him that this would be exactly the wrong action to take at this time: Reload is undergoing some very big changes and teething pains are to be expected. One very good idea we both agree on is that CTSCA will do one mailing of shoot-entry applications for the entire year so members can sign up via these forms or by the regular entry at the back of Reload.

It is my hope that the size of the printed snail-mail subscription will be whittled down over the years and eventually phased out, so if you're a little shaky in your computer skills, do what we all do: Marry someone a lot younger who knows computers; get your offspring (son, daughter, grandson, niece,

etc.) to help (remember: You have the power of the guilt trip to help motivate them) or pay the neighbor's kid a couple of bucks to idiot-proof that satanic contraption for you.

I'm genuinely sorry for the inconvenience I've created. I'll continue to do my very best for you with *Reload* but a little patience is needed while we get all this ironed out. I have faith that calmer waters lay just ahead.

If you have comments or complaints please contact me directly.

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

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

- - - 2006 CTSCA SHOOTING CALENDAR - - -

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

AUG. 11, 12 & 13 – "GREAT EASTERN LOBSTER CLASSIC" – ADDIEVILLE EAST FARM – Mapleville, RI. NSCA "BIB BLAST" SHOOT.

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.

July 7, 8 & 9 - NSCA Zone Championships, Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI

July 23 - "Tough as Nails", Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI
August 26 & 27 - Connecticut State Championships, Fairfield County Fish & Game, Newtown, CT.
September 9, 10 - 10th Annual Ruffed Grouse Society Fundraiser, Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI
October 7 (Sat.) - "Three Shot Shoot", Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI
October 8 - Women in the Outdoors Couples Shoot, Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI

THE UPCOMING TRAVELERS MONTHLY SHOOT
"SUMMERTIME SUMMERTIME"
ORVIS/SANDANONA
Millbrook, N.Y.
Sunday, July 16, 2006

The pinnacle of the shooting season is upon us. What better place to celebrate it than Orvis/Sandanona? Flawless in their presentation of every event, the diamond of Sporting Clays venues will again host our "Summertime Summertime" event. It all started here 19 years ago and continues with another of Ed Gerrard's slick target setting. Targets that will make everybody happy, should be Ed's motto. You will revisit some old friend of Ed's: "Driven Distraction", "Settling Woodies" and of course, we can't forget "Chukkar Gulch". Ed will also have a few surprises I'm sure.

Registration will open at 9 AM with a continental breakfast. **100 Sporting Targets - \$65.00**
Guests are welcome at this shoot.