

Utah ATA Delegate's Report
To the USTA Board of Directors
2009 Grand American

I attended the 2009 Grand American from 5 August 2009 through 15 August 2009 at the World Shooting and Recreation Complex in Sparta, Illinois.

I attended two meetings that were concerned with the business of the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA). The first meeting was the Western Zone (WZ) Delegate's meeting and was conducted on 12 August 2009. The second meeting was the General Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the ATA and was conducted on 13 August 2009. The following is my summary of these two meetings.

Western Zone Meeting, 12 August 2009, Delegate's Room, WSRC, Sparta, IL

President/WZ Vice-President Bruce Reed called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Following Roll Call, a motion to accept the Financial Report was moved and seconded. Then a motion to accept the meeting minutes was moved and seconded.

Zone Secretary Allan Radway informed Pres. Reed of his intention to run for Zone Vice-President thus vacating the position of Zone Secretary/Treasurer. Pres. Reed called for nominations for Sec./Treasurer. Jim Jones (MT) was nominated and seconded. Dave Kaiser moved that the vote be put off until Del. Jones arrived (Jim was still out shooting.)

Pres. Reed mentioned that the number of spots on the Sr. Vet and Ladies All-American Teams had been increased.

He also informed us that the Executive Committee (EC) was contemplating creating a more stringent definition of a chairshooter. Perhaps touching on need to use the chair as a permanent assistance device, rather than just as a convenience. No decision has been made on this topic.

The pin awards for All-American points are being standardized (decreased in some instances) and will be in effect for Zone shoots and Satellite Grands in 2010. They will probably be put into effect for State Shoots in 2011.

There was discussion of miscellaneous issues:

- 2010 Grand banks will start with the third field on the west end and continue to the east using as many banks as necessary. There will be practice traps on each end. This is a change from what was done for the 2009 Grand. In 2009 there were no program traps in front of the vendors. The vendors have protested this decision claiming that without shooters in front of their stores their sales have suffered.

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- 2009 Grand programs were not mailed out early enough. Pres. Reed stated that the 2010 programs will be mailed no later than 1 July 2010. He indicated that part of the problem this year was due to sponsor changes/delays.
- The EC has discussed raising annual dues. It was felt that since 1/3 of all ATA shooters shoot less than 500 targets per year that any increase in dues would have an adverse affect on this large number of shooters and cause them to not renew their memberships. This despite the general consensus that our annual dues are too low.
- The EC has discussed raising daily fees. However, no decision to increase fees was made at this time.
- The EC has discussed taking over the Shell House concession at the Grand and once again mandating the use of new shells. For many years, reloads were banned at the Grand. No decision has been made on this change.
- General discussion on problems related to shoot-offs at the Grand. Shoot offs have started later than planned and fields have been idle for no apparent reason. Pres. Reed acknowledged that the EC was aware of the problems and they were going to meet with the shoot off committee to determine ways to resolve the problems.

Pres. Reed then proceeded on to four Rule Changes that would be brought before the BoD.

1. "At all major tournaments where All American points will be awarded, Lady shooters may declare only one category, i.e., Lady, Sub-Junior, Junior, Veteran, Senior Veteran, or none."
2. "Any shooter who is tied for event Champion may shoot-off/carry-over for the Championship trophy. If a shooter fails in the championship trophy shoot-off/carry and has declared a Special Category, the shooter will fall back to their declared category.
Any shooter who has declared a Special Category at classification and whose score qualifies them for any trophy in their declared category will compete for the category trophy and not for place, class, or yardage group. A category shooter whose score doesn't qualify them for a trophy in their category may compete for place, class, or yardage group."
3. Create a new code: "F" ("Floor") code. This code would be used to specify a yardage below which a shooter cannot be reduced.
4. Change the "Y" code: "No shooter with a 'Y' code in their special codes will be reduced below the 24.0 yard line. This code will be waived for shooters upon reaching 55 years of age." [Previously this was waived for Veterans and Senior Veterans.]

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Discussion:

1. The change to allow Ladies to declare only one category was accepted by the WZ delegates.
2. The change to have shooters with the high score in their category compete only for event Champion or category Champion was accepted by the WZ delegates. This will streamline the shoot-off/declaration process, eliminating the need for shooters to decide what they want to do at shoot-off time. They would have made that decision at classification.
3. The change to create a Floor code was accepted by the WZ delegates.
4. The change to the age requirement for the waiving of the "Y" code was accepted by the WZ delegates. Dave Kaiser (AK) reminded everyone that he had put forth a motion last year to eliminate the "Y" code entirely but the motion had died for lack of a second. He stated that he intended to introduce the same motion this year. It being his contention that the "Y" code is unnecessary and that the new "F" code could be used in its place.

The dates for the Western Zone shoot and the 2010 Grand American were discussed.

1. The Western Zone shoot will be on July 15 – 18, 2010.
2. The Grand American will be on August 4 – 14, 2010.

Pres. Reed called for nominations for Western Zone Vice-President:

Allan Radway was nominated
Doug Hawkins was nominated

Pres. Reed called for nominations for Western Zone Secretary/Treasurer:

Jim Jones was nominated; Del. Jones declined due to the amount of work he does as Secretary for the Montana State Trapshooting Assoc.

Eileen Williamson was nominated; Eileen declined – being delegate for California takes up all her time.

Pres. Reed informed the delegates that we would have to find a Secretary/Treasurer by the time the vote for WZ Vice-President was taken at the General Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Following the meeting, I was approached by Eileen Williamson and Jim Jones. They both implored me to accept the Secretary/Treasurer position. After some discussion I told them that I would do the job.

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ATA Board of Directors General Meeting, 13 August 2009, Board Room, WSRC, Sparta, IL

President Bruce Reed called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Following Roll Call (BC, DE, LA, and QE not present), the new delegates were introduced.

Minutes from the previous meeting were moved and seconded as accepted without reading.

The Treasurer's Report was given.

- ATA is financially sound; but spending some profits to cover revenue short-falls
- ATA investments have suffered a paper loss of ~\$1M
 - Since Mar09, ~\$0.4M have been recouped due to market upturn
 - No real loss is expected since all bond issuers appear solvent and not in danger of default
- Grand revenues have declined – consistent with current economic conditions

The Past President's Report was given.

- Recommend that shoot-off delegate assignment be augmented by a “core” group of compensated referees. It is difficult to find enough delegates to cover all the shoot-off fields under the current volunteer system
- Recommend returning to random pre-squadding to properly fill all the banks

The Office Manager's Report was given.

- Using part-time help to augment regular staff to ease end-of-year back-log

The Lead Reclamation Report was given.

- Had been using an old lead recovery process
- Yield was less than acceptable
- Ground processed using old technique did not pass inspection
- Found new process; re-processed ground has passed inspection.
- Addition re-processing will eat into profits from previously reclaimed lead

The AIM Report was given.

- AIM has been in existence for about 10 months
- ~2,400 members; ~960 are new ATA members
- AIM cost ~\$22k in 2009; it is expected that AIM will at least break even in 2010

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The TechPro Report was given.

- Created a classification program to handle AIM shooters
- Buddy lists on shootata.com now have 12,000 participants, up from 5,000 a year ago
- Calculating AA points takes only a day or two to process; significant decrease from previous "hand" calculation method
- Future plans:
 - Encourage members to submit e-mail addresses – enables more economical distribution of information
 - Expand results section
 - Allow clubs to directly upload shoot data

The following Executive Committee decisions were announced:

- At the Grand – no squad will be permitted to take the line after 7PM (eliminates problem with events finishing in the dark)
- Program will be mailed before 1 June
- Grand traps/banks will be renumbered; program traps in front of permanent vendors and tent vendors will be used

At this time the General Meeting was recessed for the Zone Vice-President's Elections.

- There were two nominees for WZ VP (from WZ Delegates meeting, 8/12/09): Doug Hawkins and Allan Radway -- following a secret ballot, Allan Radway was elected Western Zone Vice-President
- Pres. Reed asked if a Secretary/Treasurer had been "found" – Eileen Williamson nominated Scott Hoover (UT) – nomination was approved by acclamation of the WZ Delegates

President Reed called the General Meeting back to order at 9:45PM.

Gary Sherrod (Southwest Zone VP) was elected ATA President by acclamation.

Based on the "straw poll" conducted at the Zone Meetings, the following rule changes were adopted:

1. Lady can declare only one category
2. Category high score s/o for Event Champ or Category Champ only
3. Floor ("F") code

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Straw poll voting on the "Y" code was close enough to warrant discussion during the General Meeting:

- Following discussion a motion was made to amend the rule to eliminate the age requirement for a special review to remove the "Y" code. This amendment was approved.
- Motion introduced to eliminate "Y" code entirely; following discussion and vote this motion was defeated.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Bruce Reed to the Real Property Committee. Bruce Reed was elected to the Real Property Committee by acclamation.

A vendor petition stating their "grievances" regarding the 2009 Grand American was presented by Mike Rinard (ID).

A motion to adjourn the meeting was introduced, seconded and approved by acclamation.

Following the General Meeting, a quick meeting of the WZ Delegates was held to elect a Vice-Chairman for the Western Zone.

- George Seubert (WA) was nominated
- Eileen Williamson (CA) was nominated

Following a secret ballot, Eileen Williamson was elected WZ Vice-Chairman.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott Hoover
ATA Delegate, Utah
Western Zone Sec/Treasurer