1st 20 yrs.
1963 The History 1983
Of the
Puget Sound Continental
Trap Shooting League
As
Remembered
By
Clifford P Hatton

The most Coveted patch

Juniors

Ladies

Seniors
Cont. League Shoot Feb 16th 1969 at the Puget Sound Club in Snohomish

Sonja Hatton at WCW

Marion Dennison at WCW

Carolyn Jensen at WCW

Sara Loupe at WCW

Some of the Lady Shooters at a Cont. League Shoot in very bad weather at Kenmore
I am Clifford P Hatton. I started shooting the Puget Sound Olympic Continental Trap Shooting league in 1964 and am still shooting it 46 years later. Our Continental league is probably the oldest, longest running, most successful trapshooting league in the united States. Because I am one of the oldest members of the league I have been asked to compose a history of the league.

I will restrict my history of the Puget Sound Olympic Trapshooting League to the first 20 years 1963-1983. Because I have yearly record books printed in those years, and I know why the League was started, Who started it, and what equipment was needed to make it possible.

In 1960 trapshooting was added to the summer Olympic games in Rome Italy. It was the international style trap never shot in America. The two men selected by the U.S. Olympic committee to represent the United States of America were Arnold Rieger from Washington State and Dr. Nelson from Indiana. Based on their ATA 16 yard averages, needless to say they did not do well against the men who had only shot international style trap.

See Detail 1

Because of our low placement on the 1960’s Summer Olympics the U.S. Army installed and equipped an international bunker at Fort Benning in Georgia. The Air Force installed one at Lacklen Air Force Base in San Antonio Texas, at the time the cost was about $15,000. At that cost it was out of the question for your average civilian gun clubs to install.

A method was needed to simulate the flight of the bunker target at a lower cost. The NRA came up with a couple of layouts, but they still required special installations. Then a Rocking base was designed that could be mounted under a Winchester western hand loaded trap in a standard ATA trap house. This was to provide the varying elevation of the target needed in the international style of shooting.

See Detail 2

So the game we know today as Olympic Continental Trap Shooting came into being.
In the fall of 1962 a group of shooters met to plan an inter club league to shoot continental targets. Dick Stoner, Carl Bullo & Ray Oakley of the Sumner club, Jim Greg of Seattle Skeet and Trap club, Bob and Vern (spike) Revia of the Renton Fish and Game club and Guy Ray, Bill Baxter and John Scott of the Boeing Employees Dog & Gun Club. There were probably others but these are the men I was told were there.

The first order of business was to choose a chairman, Guy Ray of the Boeing Employees Dog and Gun club was selected. Each host club was to have one vote on the planning committee.

The shoots would consist of 50 targets shot on Sunday at the host clubs, five shoots for a total of 250 targets. The league started in January and ran no later than March to avoid a conflict with PITA and ATA standard trap shoots, which were held in the good weather months.

The league was to be an inter club team as well as individual competition, as it is still done today.

Guy Ray was charged with developing a classification system for the league, which is still used today. Classes were to run from AA high class to E low class, Ladies, Junior, Sub Junior.

See Detail 3

To shoot for a team a shooter must be a member of that club. There was to be a high over all champion based on an aggregate of all scores, as it still should be today.

Earl Caldwell of Caldwell Industries of Vancouver, Canada agreed to develop a target of the I.S.U. specified diameter and weight, that would hold up for continental shooting.
The committee decided to use as many of the international shooting union (ISU) rules as possible, such as the shot size no larger than #7 and no more than 11/4 ounces, with no restriction on velocity, the #7 size, is the equivalent of a metric size sometimes used by European shooters. U.S. shooters used 71/2 or 8 shot, usually #8 for their first shot and 71/2 for their second shot. In the beginning the only factory shell available was the Remington live pigeon load with 11/4 ounce of 71/2 or 8 plated or hard lead shot with a velocity of 1330 feet. Two shots were allowed at each target and a broken target with either shot counted as a dead target. The angles of the targets called for in the ISU rules were a maximum of 45 degrees right or left of the center trap (or station three in cont-o).

The elevation of the target at 10 meters or 33 feet, was a minimum of one meter above the shooting station and a maximum of four meters above the shooting station. The distance of the target was to be 75 meters + or -5 meters, with the trap set at best elevation for travel, of course this distance could not be attained with the cont-o traps, so the committee settled for a distance of 60 yards + or -5 yards. With the angles and elevations in the ISU rules being adopted.

**See Details 4 & 5**

In 1963 and 1964 there were five shoots hosted by Renton, Sumner, and SST with Boeing hosting their shoot at one of the other three clubs. The club who hosted the awards banquet hosted two shoots.

In 1965 there were six shoots for a total of 300 targets. In 1966 the league went to seven shoots for a total of 350 targets as other clubs joined the league and hosted shoots.

The number of targets remained at 50 per shoot, until 1972 when the number of targets increased to 100 as it is still shot today. With Junior’s, sub junior’s and ladies and Veterans shooting 50 targets per shoot.

In 1973 a major change in ammunition took place. The ISU and the league changed the maximum amount of shot from 11/4 to 11/8 ounces.
Many young shooters learned to shoot competitively in our league in sub junior or junior class. Some of those who come to mind are; the Haugen brothers Mark and Bobby, Bill Shestock who went on to spend his military stint shooting with the Army Marksmanship at Ft. Benning Georgia. Cliff Hatton Junior who won sub junior and junior classes a number of times. And a Gold Medal as Junior champion at the U.S. Championships in San Antonio Texas in 1969, and the Silver in Phoenix Arizona in 1970. Hugh Bowie who set a junior record of 49-50 in our league in 1967. He also won the league championship two times before going into the Army.

There were many Lady shooters in our league from the beginning, most of whom were known American trap shooters. Some learned to shoot in our league, one of those was a sub junior named Sara Marie Loupe who preferred to shoot in ladies class.

National and international known shooters who won the league championship in this twenty year period.

Arnold Riegger; League champion 1966, Represented the U.S.A. in the 1960 Olympics in Rome Italy, Hall of Fame Member in both PITA and ATA trapshooting.


Ken Jones; League Champion 1973; and 100 straight in League shooting. While on Team U.S.A. in the I.S.U. World Championships in the Black Forest of Germany in 1966, He won the Gold Medal as Champion, and set A World Record with 297 out of 300 targets that still stands today.

I have often been asked about the shooter participation in the early years of our league. The record book for 1979 shows a league participation graf from 1963 to 1968, I can find no other reference to the number of shooters in the early years of the league.

See Detail 6
See Details 7 & 8 for League Champions & 100 Straights from 1963 thru 1982

I have a few photos of League Champions & Class Winners.

See Attached Photos.

Hope You Enjoy it
Cliff Hatton
Det. 1

STANDARD INTERNATIONAL
CLAY PIGEON FIELD PLAN

SCALE 4" = 1' 0"  3/29/45

Det. 2

We called it The Rocking Base

This simple contraption made our league possible

This base or similar ones were mounted under a winchester western hand loaded trap, to provide the varying elevation needed for cont-o targets
Class Averages

Class AA 91.00% and above
Class A 87.00% -- 90.99%
Class B 83.00% -- 86.99%
Class C 79.00% -- 82.99%
Class D 75.00% -- 78.99%
Class E 74.99% or less.

Computing Your Classification

The column to the right is provided to assist you in computing your classification. In the left column, to provide an example, we shall classify John Smith.

Example: John Smith shot a 43 x 50 in the Last League shoot at Redmond. Subsequently he shot a 35 x 50 and an 82 x 100 in USCTA competition, followed by an 87 x 100 in an NRA Registered tournament.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>John Smith</th>
<th>Yours</th>
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<tr>
<td>44*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41**</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41**</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36**</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
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Total

Divided by 84.80%

Average Class

*87 represents fifties of 44 and 43
**82 represents equal fifties of 41
+Statistical Median (43 + 41 divided by 2)
++Seven targets below median — score to be disregarded

Det. 4 TARGET ELEVATIONS

[Diagram of target elevations]
Det. 5

Cont-o Trap Layout

SCALE 1"=1'0" 3/28/45

BASIC DIMENSIONS ARE THOSE OF THE STANDARD AMERICAN TRAP FIELD. TOP OF TRAP HOUSE ROOF 20" TO 30" ABOVE LEVEL OF SALT. TRAP MUST OSCILLATE HORIZONTALLY AND VERTICALLY SIMULTANEOUSLY.

TRAP HOUSE MAY ALSO BE BURIED, SO ROOF TOP IS ON SAME LEVEL AS SALT.

Det. 6

LEAGUE PARTICIPATION


Bars showing participation levels from 1963 to 1968.
## LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Tatsuo Kumasaka</td>
<td>214 x 250</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boeing Employees Dog &amp; Gun Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Dick Stoner</td>
<td>234 x 250</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sumner Sportsmen's Association</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>Guy B. Ray, Jr.</td>
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<td>Boeing Employee's Dog &amp; Gun Club</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>Arnold O. Riegger</td>
<td>334 x 350</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cowlitz Gun Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Clifford P. Hatton</td>
<td>330 x 350</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Renton Fish and Game Club</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Hugh Bowie</td>
<td>325 x 350</td>
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<td>Cowlitz Gun Club</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Hugh Bowie</td>
<td>326 x 350</td>
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<td>Wallace Anthony</td>
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<td>Sumner Sportsmen's Association</td>
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<td>Jim Callihan</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>Ken Jones</td>
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<td>Seattle Trap and Skeet Club</td>
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<td>Wildlife Committee of Washington</td>
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<td>1981</td>
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<td>1982</td>
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The First 50 Straight Was Not Shot Until 1966. Rieger, Jan. 16 & Feb. 27 & Ken Backman Mar. 27.

**CONTINENTAL LEAGUE**

100 STRAIGHTS: Darryl Whitehead 3/14/76; Hugh Bowie 1/16/77, 3/13/77, 1/28/79; Myron Whitehead 1/16/77; Pat McGuIn 1/27/80; Cliff Hatton 1/27/80; Ken Jones 2/3/80; Ken Williams 2/24/80; Marv Sims 3/2/80. Mike Janni 1/17/82; Dan Marx 1/17/82, 2/22/82 Hugh Bowie 2/28/82; Clete Novinski 3/7/82.
1966 Cont. League Champion & Class Winners & Runners Up
1968 Cont. League Winners

Jim Denison
C R/U
Marion Denison
Ladies II R/U

Mark Haugen
Renton Team

Richard Novak
C Winner

Cliff Hatton
B R/U

Marvin Stevens
E R/U

Norman Galloway
D R/U

Dale Jensen
A R/U

Ron Newcomb
B Winner

Sara Lopez
Ladies I Winner

Larry Dixon
AA Winner

Cliff Hatton Jr.
Jr. Winner

Hugh Bowie
1968 Champion

Bobby Haugen
Renton Team

Cliff Fredericks
D Winner

Ken Backman
Renton Team
Paul Stanton
E Winner

Bobby Haugen
A R/U

Dale Jensen
B Winner

Hugh Bowie
Champion

Merlin Martin
D Winner

Greg Scott
Junior Winner

Cliff Hatton
AA Winner

Sara Loupe
Ladies I R/U

Carolyn Jensen
Ladies I Winner

Marion Denison
Ladies II Winner

John Scott
C R/U

1969 Cont. League Champion & Class Winners & Runners Up
The Four Charter Clubs In The P.S.O.C.T.L.