

**The first registered trap shoot at the new Clark County Shooting Park in North Las Vegas was held December 18-19th. The event was hosted by the Silver State Claybreakers with 500 ATA registered targets.**

In uncharacteristic fashion, the weather was certainly borderline – with rain, wind and occasional sun breaks with temperatures only in the high fifties! Regardless, plenty of competitors showed up to celebrate the opening of this new world class shooting park – with three avid shooters making the trip all the way from Hawaii.

Top dog this time was decided by a coin flip due to some serious cold and wet conditions, with a recent ATA Hall of Fame inductee coming out on top in the last Handicap event and also as HOA of this inaugural gathering.

## FACILITY DETAILS

The Clark County Shooting Park is the result of a lot of hard work and a meeting of the minds of community and citizen advisory, State, local and National government individuals and groups. The original concept for the Park was started back in the early 1980s. More than 45 percent of Las Vegas residents own a firearm and until now, Las Vegas was one of few urban areas without a range for the public to safely enjoy shooting sports.

The entire Park was purchased with funds from the Southern Nevada Lands Management Act. The park was planned in three phases with much of the master plan complete. Currently, besides the 24 trap and skeet overlays and Pro-shop with restaurant, the rifle and pistol range, the archery center and the education center are also complete. Coming soon are the sporting clays courses and tactical



OVERVIEW OF CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK SHOTGUN CENTER. MAIN BELOW: THE VIEW OF LAS VEGAS STRIP FROM THE CLUB RESTAURANT.

**AL HAGUE** REPORTS FROM CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK

# WORLD CLASS VENUE...



# ...HOLDS ITS FIRST REGISTERED SHOOT

ranges. Also in the planning stage is a long range rifle course to accommodate shooting up to 1200 yards.

The shotgun center is certainly first class, with ideal trap and skeet houses all under lights for night time shooting. Weekly activities are planned with registered events in the planning stages – led by long time shooter Tony Delfante, a former President of the State Trap Shooting Association.

**EVENT ONE**

At 9:30am the National Anthem sounded the beginning of Event 1. The wind was whipping the flags,

but in spite of the conditions, shooters went to the line for their first look at the new targets being thrown and more importantly to be part of this historic occasion. The consensus among shooters was that the targets were consistent – even if the wind did keep the scores down.

But as always, someone manages to shoot well, regardless of the conditions. James Parker (MO) and Greg Holden (AZ) both posted the top best at 99. In a shoot-off, Class A shooter Parker outlasted AA Holden to take the win with Holden capturing AA. Class A winner with a strong 97 was Lady shooter Jennifer Martin (NV). Class B went to Terry

Eyestone (AZ) with a 96 followed by Class C winner John Baker (UT) with 93. Class D winner, with a 95, was Selene Nakamura all the way from Honolulu, Hawaii, who eventually bested her husband Sterling, a Class A shooter, who shot a 93.

**EVENT TWO**

The winds and clouds continued to make the targets in the Clark County Handicap dance a bit, but even so, local shooter Ron Christensen had a good day and posted an event best

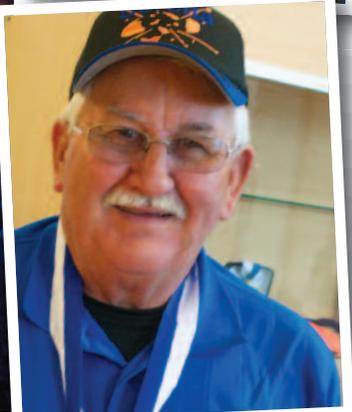
of 97 from the 27 yard line to take the win. Hall of Famer, Jimmy Heller, took the Long Yardage with his 93 while Middle Yardage was grabbed by Super Veteran Wilbur Poston Jr. from California with 94. Short Yardage from the 20 yard line was won by John H Baker (UT) with 91.

**EVENT THREE**

The Claybreakers Doubles gave some shooters a rough time – the second target would dip and jump with the swirling winds which would make the scores from Pete



RIGHT: RON CHRISTENSEN, HCP CH EVENT 2.  
MIDDLE RIGHT: JIMMY HELLER.  
BOTTOM: WILBUR POSTON JR, SR VET CA.  
FAR RIGHT: PETE MARTIN.



Martin (UT) and Jimmy Heller (CA) even more impressive. Tied at 96, Martin took top spot and Heller AA. Class A was won by Ken Wood (ID) with 90 while Class B winner, Van Lemaster (WY), put up a very strong 95. Class C went to Jeffery Lewis (NM) with his 86 and Class D was won by Franklin Gillespie (NV) with 80.

Day two of the event brought morning rain showers – but the wind continued. Sadly some shooters decided it was not a whole lot of fun and decided to wait until another day. (Hats off to the young SCTP shooters who stayed to keep score and help out as best they could to finish the event.) The hardest of the attendees stayed and managed to put up some very good scores considering.



JENNIFER MARTIN AND JERRY PARR.

## EVENT FOUR

Lady shooter, Jennifer Martin, earned her 27 yard line punch in Event 1 and went to the line at the 27 for Event 4 – the White Flyer Handicap. Shooting well, she posted a 94 in conditions that had even top shooters like Jerry Parr and Jimmy Heller struggling to post 89s. Now that Jennifer has returned to shooting Handicap from the back fence, as she has in her past, she's happy to be there once again as the competitive fires burn strong in this young lady. Taking the win here was a thrill – and especially gratifying to do it under these conditions.

Middle Yardage was taken by Russell Roberts (NV) with one target back at 93. Short Yardage was won by Super Veteran Albert Peterson (CA), also with 93.

## EVENT FIVE

Little by little the ranks dwindled, with a small turnout for the Desert Toyota Handicap. After the wet shooting was complete, two great

shooters were tied – Jimmy Heller and Jerry Parr locked at 88. With neither wanting to go out and shoot again, they decided on a coin flip for Champion. Shoot Director, Tony Delfante, tossed the coin with Heller making the call. On this occasion the coin came up in his favor with Parr taking Long Yardage.

Middle Yardage went to John Michael Reese (NV) with 86 while Short Yardage also had a tie between Michael Lohmeyer (NV) and Gregory Jones (ID) at 86. These two went to the line for a shoot-off in spite of the weather – and after the first box Jones had outlasted Lohmeyer.

No surprise that Hall of Famer Jimmy Heller from California was AA HOA with 464/500 followed in Class A by Jennifer Martin with 451/500. Class B HOA went to Gregory Jones and Scott Abo (430/500). Class C went to Brice Beck (ID) with 395/500 and Class D was won by Jerry Tabacco (MT) with 404/500.

## SCTP PROGRAM

According to Linda Hand, leader for the local chapter of the SCTP, they have 50 young people between ages 8 and 18 registered with about 40 active. The breakdown at the moment is five girls and 35 boys. The local SCTP group, through fundraisers and club support, are able to provide targets and ammo for four rounds for each shooter. Each of

the shooters earn additional funds for the program by working as scorers at other clubs and State shoot events. The club also provides loaner guns for those young people who do not have their own. As a group, they have a scoring average in the eighties with one shooter at a 94. The Las Vegas Individual Youth Scholastic Shooting Groups will hold an event February 18-19th.

## THE FUTURE

According to Lesa Coder, who is employed by Clark County to oversee the operation of the Shooting Park, interviews are in progress to find a full time Manager for the Shooting Park. Tony Delfante will be planning and organizing the registered shoots with a goal of returning the fees to the State Association. Coder further shared that a contract for the design of the Sporting Clays courses has been awarded to Marty Fisher of Georgia.

## SUMMARY

The Clark County leadership, along with State and Federal leaders, have done an amazing job in creating this new venue to be utilized by all

sorts of shooting sports. For clay shooters this is one more great destination either for fun shooting or for competition. The facilities are first class, the equipment certainly top of the line and the people are great. Leadership for this new facility is on point for promoting safe and fun times for shooting sports overall.

One visit and you will most likely be a fan. The restaurant has a view of the Las Vegas Strip and at night is quite a sight. Usually the weather is much more comfortable and in the hot summer, night shooting is available with a lighting system to rival the Yankees Stadium. The Education Center is available for meetings and group learning and the host program is a unique opportunity for people who have an interest in being a part of this great shooting park. If you plan to be in Nevada, take the time to visit and enjoy a top level shooting facility. For complete information go to [www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/parks/Pages/sp-welcome-page.aspx](http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/parks/Pages/sp-welcome-page.aspx) ■



RIGHT: SUE WOHLBRANDT, MEMBER OF THE CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TONY DELFANTE, ATA SHOOT DIRECTOR AND LESA CODER. BELOW: ELEVATED LINE VIEW.



PRO SHOP AND RESTAURANT.

