

4-H Shooting Sports News and Views
 Electronic Version for Agents and Coaches

Telephone: (979) 845-1214

Facsimile: (979) 845-6495

E-mail: ra-howard@tamu.edu

Web Address for Official Announcements: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/ss/>

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4-H Age Changes Effective 1 September 2005

This may be elaboration on the obvious, but I include it here just in case someone missed it. All 4-H ages and their titles changed effective 1 September 2005. Because we felt the 4-5 year age span for seniors might be a bit too broad, we asked for and were granted permission to subdivide the senior group into two classes if we felt it warranted. We will use S1 and S2 divisions in some specified events as needed. This change will require revisions in nearly all of our rules and many courses of fire. Some of them are already in progress or determined by the state committee, e.g. in pistol, the S1 shooters will shoot standing and two-handed and the S2 bullseye pistol shooters will use the standard one-handed stance. Both will be permitted to fire the .45 pistol in competition. Here are the ages and their titles as officially stated in the 4-H Rules and Guidelines. The coding for them is listed in parentheses after the title.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Junior (J) | - 9 (or 8 and in 3 rd grade) - 10 |
| Intermediate (I) | - 11-13 |
| Senior (S1) | - 14-15 |
| Senior (S2) | - 16-18 |

The criterion date for age determination remains 31 August of the preceding 4-H year, i.e. 31 August 2005 for the current 4-H year. Note that a youngster turning 9 or 8 and in 3rd grade becomes eligible on his or her birthday, but a youth turning 19 on September 1 remains 18 for the entire 4-H year.

We have abundant evidence in average scores indicating that the age classes and event structures we have been using were about right. Mean percentages of scores X possible scores were close to the same for each age group. We will monitor them this year to see if we need to make changes to accommodate the new age divisions. I would appreciate your input from the local level on this. Since the age classes are fixed, the changes would need to come in the venues being shot.

Next National Workshop - Kansas 4-H Center in May

We are in the "hard day's drive" arc for the Kansas Workshop in mid May. We have changed some of the requirements for attending a national workshop, as outlined below; but we will provide a workshop application to those who are qualified, interested, and willing to take on the required "giving back" elements of workshop attendance, and willing to sign a contract with the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Committee, Inc. On their follow up actions. We will not simply post them to the web site, but will do so on an individual basis.

Requirements for Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Committee Members

What are the requirements? The applicant must be an active, certified 4-H volunteer in either Shooting Sports or Field and Stream in one or more shooting disciplines (this includes the Shooting Sports Hunting discipline). Applicants must be willing to become active and remain active as instructors on the state training team (at least once each year). They must be active and involved members of the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Committee (we meet 2-4 times annually). They must be spokesmen for the program in their district and region, supporting committee decisions. They must be spokesmen for their districts and regions, bringing their knowledge. They must participate in statewide events and activities in support of the committee and the program. We expect state committee members to be active in the development of policy, program rules and regulations, workshop siting and support, and management of events and activities. That is a load. It should not be taken lightly. We depend upon these core volunteers to deliver the program, speak for the program, and support it when and where required. For all of that commitment you get a blue shirt with a logo, some business cards, and the honor of being on the point when someone is disgruntled or angry over a decision. The real reward is seeing the kids and the pleased parents that are involved in the program and knowing that their learning and enjoyment is part of what you do without compensation and because you, too, love the kids and the disciplines we are teaching.

Pending Workshops

The calendar has some workshops up to two years from now posted and lacks some that we are trying to present in the 2005-2006 4-H year. Checking the calendar will give you what we know at the time it was posted. We will update it as additional workshops are available. We might be able to squeeze a few into the Paris workshop if you have a desperate need, but it might be a challenge. In addition to that one, we have posted three workshop applications: Kerrville (November 18-20), Amarillo (January 6-8), and Rosenberg (March 31 - April 2). We are actively working on several others, but no data is available at this time.

Indoor 3-P Smallbore Match(es)

This match is still in a serious state of flux. Since our committee meeting, Drs. Lepley and Couch have both voiced a strong desire to move the match back into Roundup in some fashion, but that might depend upon having an off-campus, indoor shooting facility. We are working on that, but are likely at least 2 years away. Prior to their expressing that interest, the rifle committee met in Kerrville the last weekend in August. In that meeting, they also wrestled with the status of the match. They supported a proposal to host several qualifying matches (a shooter could participate in only one) followed by an invitational match for all those individuals and teams either during the Roundup week or at another time so shooters could go to Roundup in other areas. Final recommendations have not

been shared at this time, so I am not posting firing schedules or other information. Watch for a special announcement or the January newsletter for the decision. If we cannot get that done by January, I will propose repeating last year's approach and announce shooting times for teams at that time.

NRA-4-H Training Counselor Workshop - Reloading

Anyone interested in becoming a training counselor in reloading has the opportunity to do so on October 21-23 in College Station. The exact site is pending, and the workshop will be dependent upon our having sufficient interest to merit the commitment of NRA staff and Senior TCs to the weekend. Rather than post an application, we are asking all interested parties to contact us by e-mail (ra-howard@tamu.edu) or by telephone (979-845-1214) indicating your interest. We will make a final decision based on the number of interested volunteers with reloading certification who want to go the next step. Note that the reloading training is a prerequisite for participation in the class.

National Match Applications Due in the State Office

All senior (14-18) Texas 4-H shooters who would like to represent Texas in the 2006 National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational must have completed applications in the State 4-H Office by the end of November! In the past couple of years we have experienced some challenges in filling teams, but those who participate in the matches have been very positive about the experience and getting to meet other 4-H shooters from all over the country. For the next two years, the match will be hosted by South Dakota. I do not know about the rest of the disciplines, but I have already been in touch with their hunting discipline chair. He is very excited about the possibilities there, and I anticipate an excellent set of events. We have arranged alternate travel for those who may not want to drive as a family, chartering a bus for the trip. As usual, I will also have some room with the truck and trailer, so expenses should not be exorbitant. Each team consists of four members. We like to have at least one alternate as well, since we have lost at least one team member each of the last 4 years. The alternate does not lose eligibility in that discipline unless they actually move up to the team and compete. Even then, they remain eligible for any other contest in the array. Note that the criterion age is different for national events, requiring the individual to be 14 by January 1, 2006 to be eligible. A listing of team and the disciplines in which they compete follows.

- Recurve Archery - FITA, Field, 3-D
- Compound Archery - FITA, Field, 3-D
- Air Pistol - Slow fire, Rapid fire, Silhouette (We have rapid fire pistols to loan)
- Smallbore Pistol - Slow fire, Camp Perry, Smallbore hunter's pistol silhouette
- Air Rifle - 3-position, Standing slow fire, Silhouette
- Smallbore Rifle - 3-position, CMP sporting rifle, Sporting rifle silhouette
- Muzzleloading Rifle - 25 yard Antique and Haffner, 50 yard Bullseye, Silhouette
- Hunting - Hunting skills*, Hunter decision making, Wildlife and wildlife management
- Shotgun - Skeet, Trap, Sporting clays (could be any type)

* live fire included: smallbore and MZ animal targets, shotgun (Quail Walk), and 3-D archery

Fall/Winter Postal Leagues

The following postal league applications and announcements are attached to this newsletter. Registration, shooting, and score return dates are listed below for your convenience. See attached files for the registration materials.

| Event | Registration | Shooting Dates | Scores |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|
| Smallbore Silhouette | 11/01/05 | 11/01/05-1/30/06 | 02/10/06 |
| Light Rifle | 11/01/05 | 11/01/05-1/30/06 | 02/10/06 |
| Air Pistol | 12/09/05 | 01/01/06 -4/30/06 | 05/15/06 |
| Archery | 12/09/05 | 01/01/06 -4/30/06 | 05/15/06 |
| BB Gun | 12/09/05 | 01/01/06 -4/30/06 | 05/15/06 |
| Precision Air Rifle | 12/09/05 | 01/01/06 -4/30/06 | 05/15/06 |
| Sporter Air Rifle | 12/09/05 | 01/01/06 -4/30/06 | 05/15/06 |
| Three-position Smallbore Rifle | 12/09/05 | 01/01/06 -4/30/06 | 05/15/06 |

Indoor Archery Match Set for 2006

Ben Dybala, match director for the indoor archery match, has announced that the 2006 Indoor Archery Match will be held in Graham March 18 with pre-shooting for those with academic conflicts on the evening of March 17. The format will be the familiar JOAD 9 meter and 18 meter rounds, the former for first year junior archers. Because of rule changes for Clover Kids, there will be NO Clover Kid events. Registration forms will be posted with the January newsletter, but you might want to pencil in the dates on your calendar right now.

Other Opportunities for 4-H Shooting Sports Youth

While we may think our program is the greatest, there are many other opportunities that young people in shooting sports may find both interesting and beneficial. The Brigades - Buckskin, Bobwhite, Feathered Forces, and Bass - are managed through the Texas Wildlife Association, but they retain the leadership of folks like Dr. Dale Rollins, Tamara Trail and Larry Hysmith. Participant reports are uniformly positive. Check them out. The Master

Naturalists Program includes Junior Master Naturalists. Again, this is a demanding program that can be life changing. Contact Michelle Haggerty in the TAMU Wildlife and Fisheries Science Department for more information. For the hunting participants who want another element to add to their knowledge, exploring the Texas Wildlife Habitat Judging Contest and its background information might be valuable and fun. Dr. James Cathey in the District 10 office in Uvalde is the leader for this program. Workshops should be going on. Maybe you can get to one and explore this program as well. The Outdoor Skills program at the Texas 4-H Center might be of interest, too. Contact the Center in Brownwood to find the particulars (what, where, when and how) of the program. Add to these our own Field and Stream Program and the Texas 4-H Sportfishing Program, and you have lots to do. Contact Ron at the State 4-H Office for these last two. Expand your horizons. You might find something that you really like and that changes your career objectives. Your local Extension Office can assist you in finding these things.

Reloading Data Sheets Attached

In case you did not get a copy of the required reloading data sheets and cannot find it in the web archives, I have attached them. Remember that current 4-H rules require anyone using reloaded ammunition in any event to comply with standard reloading techniques and to supply a data sheet outlining the loading data.

Ambassador Applications Attached

The Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program has produced a group of outstanding ambassadors who have served at both the state and national levels. After ours was in place for several years, the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee adopted a proposal encouraging development of such programs to provide youth equipped to meet donors and to interpret the program at all levels. Since we continue to see a few good young people of senior age to expand the ambassador corps, we have attached an application. The deadline for 2006 applications is December 2, 2005. That will give us sufficient time to prepare review copies for the committee before its January meeting. All interested senior shooting sports members are encouraged to apply.

Share Your Invitational Match Dates, Please!

Shooting Sports programs all over the state host a huge number of invitational events. Some of them are more or less local or restricted by district or region, but many are open to all comers. While we do not want to become event managers for every club and county in the state, we do want to be supportive of those matches, particularly when they are designed as fund raisers for a club. We can help if you will give us enough lead time. That will let us give you a plug in the newsletter or at least get you listed on the calendar. An e-mail, note or telephone call works much better than the word of mouth approach. So, if you have something you want us to publish to the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports world, please give us plenty of advance notice. We will be happy to help you spread the word through the newsletter. To make things easy, all we need is: match, location, dates, match director or contact, address, telephone number(s), e-mail address, and fax number if available. A match description, if not obvious from the name, is also helpful.

March Madness

Wayne Harlow reports that the annual March Madness invitational will be held on March 5th at the Austin Rifle Club Range between Manor and Elgin. The registration deadline is February 5 (postmark). Check-In and Registration will start at 0700 on March 5th at the range. Orientation (Mandatory for everyone) is at 0800. The first events should be running by 0830, and the event managers hop to have awards underway by 1800. For further information and registration forms, contact Wayne at wayne@harlows.us or Jennie Dietrich at pfun_stampin@sbcglobal.net.

Silhouettes at Brady and the Hot Box Match

David Williams indicates that the annual Hot Box and Brady Silhouette Invitationals are being planned. Watch the April Newsletter for details

Hunters and Trappers: Help Needed

Although my appeal for specimens fell on deaf ears last year, I am trying again. I can use what you usually throw away for the hunting program. Our need is broad and deep, and all assistance is welcome. Note the attached message for how to get things to us. Most of it is as quick and easy as dropping something in a big paper envelope with a note on who, where and when it was taken and addressing it to my office OR bringing it to an event. We need your help. Please think of us when you are in the field or at the cleaning table. Any furbearer, varmint, or game animal can provide us with much needed specimens with your help. Skins and skulls of mammals, complete wings of game birds (particularly waterfowl), or well-done and documented plaster casts of tracks, even dried droppings, can all be used in the program. I can even use items like squirrel or deer tails (any species). The Specimens Wanted attachment will tell you how to prepare and ship them. For all of our sakes, please include a signed document telling us who shot them, etc. to keep us all from violating Texas wildlife law. Since you are not selling them, but donating them to the program, I do not see any problems with their being supplied to us for this educational purpose.

Trappers, we can even use pelts that are so poor that they are hardly worth skinning. Let's get our specimen arsenal up to snuff so we can prepare our kids for competitive events.

Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Committee Meetings

The Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Committee held its late summer meeting in August at the Red Rose Range in Kerrville. Much of the discussion centered on changes in some match venues, particularly for the shotgun events at the State 4-H Games and the indoor rifle match (formerly the Roundup Rifle Match). The Friday evening session broke up after midnight, and the meetings on Saturday ran into late afternoon. The hunting committee met after the remainder of the committee meeting was finished. Among other things, we set a March date for a hunting workshop in Hunt (appropriate, right) that will include hunting for doe Axis deer in the process. Since that time, we have been working on a January Hunting Workshop at the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (we are in limbo right now as we let the dust settle from Rita). If that one comes off, it will focus on waterfowl and perhaps some feral hogs. We are attempting to get completely hands on with these workshop. Other committee actions are discussed above.

The winter meeting will be held in mid-January in Brownwood. This will be our team selection and ambassador selection meeting, so the agenda will be extremely full. We will, however, make time for other business as needed. Your comments, suggestions, criticisms (be sure you have an alternative to what you are criticizing) may be shared with either me (ra-howard@tamu.edu), 979-845-1214 or to Stanley Baumbach (sbbaumba@awesomenet.net), the committee chair. You may also contact the committee chair of the discipline sub-committee that might be involved. Suggestions for change from volunteers are almost invariably those that make the program better. Those that remain a secret from the committee, however, seldom create change. Let us hear from you!

The discipline chairs are:

Archery : Ben Dybala - Bay City - bfdybala@wcnet.net , 979-245-0866
Coordinator: Craig Sullivan - Lometa - ajsullivan@ag.tamu.edu , 325-646-0386 (Beverly)
Hunting: Rick Howard - Huffman - rick@oaoa.net , 281-324-4489
Muzzleloading: Jim Peagler - Edna - peagil@tisd.net , 361-782-3769
Pistol: Phil Guenther - Schulenburg - philg@cvtv.net , 979-562-2124
Rifle: Roy Green - Stephenville - rgreen@stvleaze.net , 254-968-7932
Shotgun: Bill Massey - Huntsville - billmassey12@netzero.com , 936-348-5617
Silhouette: David Williams - Brooksmith - dctd@web-access.net , 325-643-6050
Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Committee Inc.: David Williamson - Crockett - 44magdave@intratar.net ,
936-544-5356

Who Serves on the Committee?

Service on the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Committee is not an honorary job! It is a major act of service to the program with representatives from all over the state. The committee is responsible for the program with the advice and consent of the 4-H Specialist. Most members have been through one or more national training sessions and serve in multiple capacities. A few represent specific programs, like Extravaganza. Others were asked to serve to represent an under-represented portion of the state or as specialists in one area or another. Our current committee membership is listed below by their Extension district. Emeritus members include Lanny Bullard (Bryan), Fred Cross (Stephenville), Bill Deauman (Crockett), Margaret and Terry Ellis (Clyde), Richard Johnson (Robert Lee), Nick Nichols (Pleasanton), Scotty Oliver (San Saba) and Earl Williams (Kerrville).

District 1 - Jim Finley (Claude)

District 2 - Nelda Blackwell (Littlefield), Rick Monger (Levelland)

District 3 - Kenneth Jarosz (Wichita Falls), Don Van Meter (Wichita Falls), Ricky Linx (Weatherford)

District 4 - Roy and Joanne Bouldin (Gainesville), Tamara Trail (Mesquite)

District 5 - Sean Healy (Tyler), David Williamson (Crockett)

District 6 - George and Debbie Brenzovich (Fort Hancock), Bobby Wade Welch (Gardendale), Gary Wilhelm (Wickett)

District 7 - Linvel Baker (Marble Falls), Robert Wade Black (Cisco), Pat Gary (Lohn), Dennis and Sheree Kaspar (Kingsland), Bob and Cookie Robinson (Clyde), Tom Sammons (Brady), Craig and Beverly Sullivan (Lometa), David Williams (Brooksmith)

District 8 - Evelyn Capps (Arlington), Ron Green (Rockdale), Roy Green (Stephenville), Jerry Provorse (Copperas Cove)

District 9 - Charlie Coble (College Station), Mike Eubanks (Caldwell), Kitty Haynes (Fort Bend), David Hellard (Montgomery), Wally Hess (Humble), Rick Howard (Huffman), Milton Kolb (Beaumont), Eddie Lero (Bryan), Bill Massey (Madisonville), Larry Perez (Bryan), Tom Rawlings (Wharton), Rich Tillman (Angleton), and Charlie Wicke (Rosenberg)

District 10 - Philip Calk (Brackettville), Jeff and Jeanie Dietrich (Pflugerville), Leland Gebert (Elgin), Drew Pickle (Bastrop), Billy Snow (Kerrville), Earl Wellborn (Pflugerville)

District 11 - Tim and Fawn Acuff (Bay City), Stanley Baumbach (Victoria), Ben Dybala (Bay City), Michael Gerla (Van Vleck), Philip Guenther (Schulenburg), Ty Harris (Corpus Christi), James Jahn (Weimer), David Lackey (Red Rock), Jim Peagler (Edna), James Ross (Columbus), Bob Russell (Boling), Charlie Wilson (Cuero), Hank and Pat Schoenherr (Beeville)

District 12 - Tommy Allmand (Pearsall), Donald Hessong , Kelly Macmanus (Pharr)

State Wide - Terry Erwin (Texas Parks and Wildlife), Denise Harmel-Garza (TAMU), Larry Hysmith (TAMU)

South Dakota Applications and Arrangements

The South Dakota locations for the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational is a bit farther away than previous ones, but they are working very hard at making it a memorable experience with side events to Mount Rushmore and similar sites in the vicinity. The matches are scheduled for South Dakota in both 2006 and 2007, so we have investigated some ways of creating cost saving for our participants and their families. To date, we have chartered a team bus (team and family members as room permits) and have booked a team motel at reasonable rates in Rapid City. Of course, parents are welcome to travel on their own or to use this as the start or end of a vacation, but we are ready with the sites and charter. Preliminary cost estimates for these two items are about \$150 per person (of course subject to change with fuel costs, etc.) As this is written we have not determined and cannot accurately estimate if we can cover that entire amount or participants will be asked to provide partial payment. We will attempt to minimize expenses for our shooters, so potential cost should not be a factor in applying to participate in the Invitational. If circumstances dictate, we will find a way to get the kids there and support them in the process, so this should not be a factor in applying for the Texas Team. We will work with you to get the kids there, watched, housed and fed. Costs may go up, but the first wave of oil battles should be over before July. We are also trying to book some group attractions for the team members and their families traveling with them. If you have a question on these things, please contact Tammy at 979-458-0466 or at TAGEvbert@at.tamu.edu.

4-H Shooting Sports Tee-shirts and Caps Available

The Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program now has both tee-shirts and caps with the new Texas 4-H Shooting Sports logo available for club or individual purchase. Shirts have the round logo with Texas over the top on the upper left chest and the elongate logo on the upper back. Caps feature a smaller elongate logo. Caps are adjustable with a green bill and olive gray cover. We have 960 caps available for sale at \$10 each. Shirts are available in ash (18 M, 173 L, 140 XL, 172 XXL and 33 XXXL), white (48 S, 72 M, 198 L, 186 XL, and 32 XXL), green (17 L), and sand (1 S, 28 L and 8 XL). These are available at a cost of \$10 each including packaging and shipping. You may use the attached order form, or you can contact us by telephone or e-mail to be sure we have what you wish to. Once the order is confirmed we will hold the order until your check is received. Note that the mailing address on the order form is the same one for all payments to this office: Texas 4-H Foundation, PO Box 11020, College Station, TX 77842-1020 with checks made payable to the Texas 4-H Foundation - memo: 4-H Shooting Sports.

Parting Shots

I started out here to give a "state of the program" address. I have decided not to do so. The good parts will sound like bragging and the bad ones would be depressing. So we are not going there. You will notice lots of changes that came with the new 4-H year. We will have a few rough patches figuring them out, but they will seem like minor bumps in the road by next September. Let's look instead at two things: 1) what (and why) we have this program and 2) the need to keep ourselves in perspective while we do important things.

The primary reason that we have a 4-H Shooting Sports Program are in the hearts and minds of all those kids that are being touched by caring and positive adults every day. While I am as hard core a Second Amendment (all of it) guy as any, and while my love for shooting and more particularly for hunting is extremely deep, those are the tools that we are using to develop kids into the best self-directed and functioning adults that they can be. The reasons are many. It has NOTHING to do with the trophies and plaques. They are mere symbols that will eventually go into a box or get tossed out with other "no longer useful" stuff. It is ALL about what is happening inside as those kids work toward learning complex skills, focusing their minds, thinking critically, and more – i.e. it is ALL about LIFE SKILLS. We need to remember that. We also need to remember that we are teaching those skills in passing, under the guise of learning to do something that is both challenging and fun. Finally, we need to remember that it also includes life skills development for the adults involved.

I cannot speak for you, but I can testify for me. I do not do this because it is a job. With a PhD in ecology, ethology and evolutionary biology, I could be making a lot more somewhere cooler with fewer challenges. I do it simply because it is my calling. The hardest part about thinking that I will retire and give this up for someone else is that I will have to find the third calling in my life in a few short years. The calling tells me that there are very few greater rewards than seeing the lights come on in a kid's eyes when he or she finally "gets it."

The second part really comes for my annual physical. I have a physician who is interactive. He told me I was in pretty good shape for the shape that I'm in (my apologies to Dr. Seuss and You're Only Old Once). As we talked, I mentioned that I am having problems getting out to do the things that have been my recharge activities most of my life - bird watching, wood working, taking photos, but mostly hunting, fishing, fly tying, archery and skeet shooting. He looked me in the eye and said, "Let me give you the words of an old doctor friend. 'You can either take the time to do the things that keep you healthy, or you will take the time to recover from not doing those things.'" I am trying to seize some sense of control back from the chaos that has been this past year. I will miss a workshop later this year because I will be in the prairies of Kansas with nothing more important to do than to follow Rocky in pursuit of some gamebirds. I will carry a new shotgun, one that only shoots twice and has its barrels aligned in the old fashioned way - side by side. If we come home empty handed, we will come home with full hearts and minds

that have been cleared by spending time being part of nature. Before that and once the coast settles from the storm, I will spend a day or so casting (flies if the water is clear, hardware and bait if it is not) for fish that will not have to be bent to fit in a creel or ice chest. I may go to Freeport and see if I can catch something that I have never caught before - just so I can add it to the life list of catches.

I know that some of you will sign on and read this after getting your power back and maybe battling to rebuild. The energy of purpose will drive you for a while, but do not let it stop you from doing the things that keep you sane and healthy. Until next time, try seeing a sunrise and a sunset, try putting yourself and your short span on the earth into perspective, try to do something that rebuilds, refreshes and sustains your spirit. All of us will be better for it.

*May you be blessed in doing so.
Ron*