

# ON THE ROAD WITH ZACH KIENBAUM

BY AL HAGUE

**T**his early in the season, top competition hasn't started yet, but in subsequent issues Al Hague will follow Zach as he travels the country competing at sporting clays events. In this issue we learn a bit more about this young man and gain some insight into the life of a professional and a top shot and coach.

■ **How young did you start shooting and who was your first coach?**

■ My dad was really my first teacher – when I was twelve. Dad was the head instructor at the Old River Road Sporting Clays, a very popular place in the 1990s – they held the 1996 US Open there and many of the first major FITASC events in the country.

Shortly after my first shoot I had a lesson from Jon Kruger – that was twenty years ago. I never took another lesson until three years ago – from Anthony Matarese Jr.

■ **Did you attend or graduate from college?**

■ I went to San Luis Obispo for a while, but to be honest, college really got in the way of my shooting. The year I placed 3rd in the Nationals and the US Open, I really lost interest in school!

■ **If you hadn't discovered shooting what do you think you**

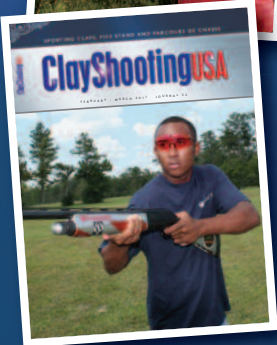
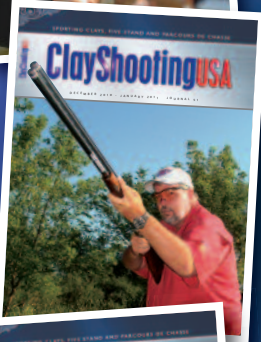
**might be doing today?**

■ In High School I had plans of following in my Dad's footsteps and being a California Highway Patrol Officer or, based on all the hunting we did then, I also thought about being a Game Warden. I certainly knew that I wanted to be involved in the shooting industry in some capacity early on.

This is the first in the series for 2011 of "On The Road" featuring top shot, coach and resident Pro from California, Zachary Kienbaum. He's a 12 times NSCA All-American and his home club is Triple B's Sporting Clays in Rosemead, California.



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■ You are fortunate to have some very good sponsors. Who do you enjoy a professional relationship with?

■ That's true. I shoot a Perazzi MX2000 and my choice of ammunition is Gamebore. Sponsors are a huge part of what we do and it's very much appreciated.

■ Since many of the events you travel to are so spread out, how do you get to them?

■ If an event is in California, Nevada or Arizona I drive, otherwise I fly everywhere.

■ Do you have any other shooters you commonly travel or stay with?

■ I pretty much grew up with Brad Kidd, so we travel a lot together and have done so for fifteen years. Hard to believe our parents let us drive all over the country to shoot back then. I also travel a lot with my regular squad and close friends Anthony Matarese Jr. and Cory Kruse.

■ How do you relax when on the road?

■ I keep it pretty calm. I'm not one for going out much at all – I like to get my sleep. Once in a while we play some golf and at the right time of the year we try to get in some bird hunting.

■ I know you do a lot of teaching but how often and where?

■ Most of my lessons are given at Triple B and also at a private range in Santa Barbara (CA).

■ How many regular students do you have and what are their age ranges?

■ My clients range from 14 year olds to gentlemen in their 70s. They're mostly recreational shooters in California, almost no competitive shooters. I do have a



couple of youngster working to get to a higher level and they enjoy competing – and I'm pleased to say they're doing quite well.

■ If you could point to one fault most new or less proficient shooters have, what would that be and what do you emphasize as the way to correct the fault?

■ Most new (and many experienced) shooters just don't look at the target the way they need to – so many of them think that once they pull the trigger they're done. The follow through is missing and the eyes leave the target. It's interesting how many people don't even see the target break when they do hit it. Working on mechanics is paramount, but seeing the target correctly is a big part of success in this game.

■ Have you established any personal goals for this year?

■ Yes – I want to do better at the majors this year, so I need to prepare more and practice smarter to grove all of my mechanics.

■ Do you have any specific issues you're working on?

■ Not really. The only person I go to when I do have an issue is Matarese.

■ Do you hit the gym enough – and how often?

■ Me! Gym – no. It's not that I

shouldn't and wouldn't like to, but the reality is I am just not crazy about the gym. I know I should, but it's just not for me.

■ Do you have any specific focus on healthy eating habits or programs?

■ I try to eat healthy and I have made a commitment to stay away from fast food. I know I sure need to do that! It's pretty tough to eat healthy on the road, but I plan to make more of an effort this year.

■ What events will you shoot this year?

■ I missed the Seminole Cup due to being asked to be best man at a close friend's wedding but I shot the Mardi Gras the first weekend in March. Next up will be all the majors including the World Sporting and Triple Classic, US Open and, of course, the Nationals at the end of the year. I will also be shooting the California State, Zone 7, the US Western Open, the Texas State and for the first time I'm going to go to Alaska to shoot the State up there. I also have a trip scheduled for one of my students for a dove hunt in Uruguay which I'm looking forward to. I think it's going to be a good year.

■ You're single and 32 – do you have a significant other in your life?

■ Yes I do – her name is Desirae Edmunds and we met in Alaska several years ago. She made the All-American squad this year and I'm so proud of her. She shot very well at the Nationals last year. Its fun to have her travel with me (when possible). ■

*The next issue will have Zach's results at the Mardi Gras, news of his trip to Uruguay and perhaps some more detail on his improvement plans for 2011.*