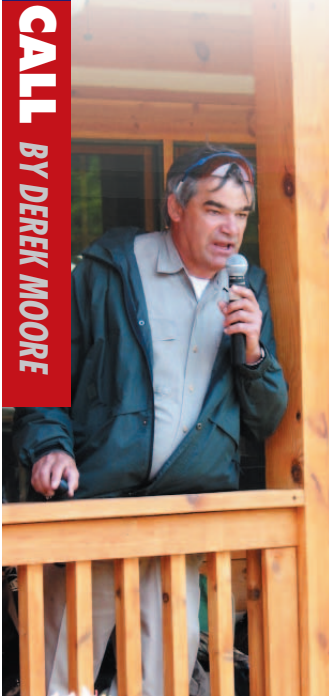


THE HOMESTEAD SHOOTING CLUB

CLUBCALL BY DEREK MOORE



DAVID JUDAH.

IN 1992, THOSE OF US WHO WERE SHOOTING TOURNAMENTS, LOOKING FOR FRESH TARGETS AND EVENTS, WERE DRAWN TO AN EVENT THAT GAVE A LITTLE CLASS TO THE SPORT AND BROUGHT IT TO A NEW LEVEL.

We were asked to wear a suit and tie to all dinners and side presentations and the buzz at the time was that this shoot was to be the event of the year and should not be missed. It was the first U.S. Open, held at the Homestead Shooting Club in Hot Springs Virginia, the brain child of Bob Edwards.

What a first class event that was, easily the best value for money of any tournament before it or since – and it’s probably the single most talked about event, even today. It previewed the first

ever 5-stand competition, both in its present form and international, which has random targets only allowing you to know if it’s a single or a true pair with the sound of a horn. Its inventor, Ray Foreman, was on hand to show us how it worked. The NRA, no less, sponsored the 5 course banquet in the great hall and it was Audi’s debut as a sponsor to our sport.

For me it was my first introduction to this luxurious 5 star resort which has since carved its way to having the most prestigious gun club in the United States.

One of the men behind the scenes at that event, making sure all was well, was David Judah. He now runs the Homestead shooting club and its variety of shooting experiences with the precision of the military. His soft laid back manner gives an aura of calm to all who meet him, but behind that exterior he has assembled a team

that is second to none – nothing is left to chance. He was behind the push to build the new Clubhouse with its spectacular pavilion. It opened for the first time last year, using top Chefs from the Homestead to present a 5 star buffet to its shooting guests. David tells me that since he taught one of the Chefs to shoot, he has no problems getting all the best Chefs for his shoots!

MAJOR EVENTS

It is available for many corporate style events as well as two major sporting clays tournaments each year that are open to the public. The first is The Homestead Cup, which has been held every year since 1993 on Memorial day weekend. The dates for this year are Friday May 26 through Sunday the 28th. The second is the annual Sporting Clays and Golf

tournament which was moved from its 14 year spell in August, because of other conflicting commitments, to September 8th and 9th. This competition has 18 stations of sporting clays (front 9 and back 9 like golf) with, for example, 5 targets... a score of 3 being par, 4 for birdie and all 5 for eagle. This part of the event is scheduled for Friday, while on Saturday it’s 18 holes of golf with shoot-offs on Saturday night for the winning pair. It is a two man team event so a good shooter and a good golfer have a very good chance here as the scoring balances out the two sports. This year it will be filmed live for ESPN for nationwide television broadcast.

The shooting club is listed as one of the Homesteads many activities. Set deep in the Allegheny mountains, in the Shenandoah Valley, it has one of



THE NEW CLUB HOUSE SITS HIGH IN THE HILLS.

the best and most scenic sporting clays courses in the world. The club also has four skeet fields, a wobble trap, a permanent 5-stand and seven NSCA certified instructors on hand for any assistance you may need. First class all the way.

TAKE A BREAK

Shooting packages are offered year round including accommodation at the resort, breakfast and dinner, some with 4 hours of instruction, use of a Berretta shotgun, one round of skeet and up to 300 sporting targets starting at \$218 per person. Many high end guns are available to choose from, so it's hardly surprising that more Berretta's are sold out of this club than any club in the United States. David also holds shooting schools, one on one, or up to five students in a group, by appointment.

What better way is there to introduce diverse people to shotguns in a positive environment – surely an asset to our sport. Patti Kincaid, David's assistant, told me there are many events throughout the year. They have over 150 members and hold numerous corporate weekends including the Virginia Trial Lawyers, who hold their event every year in April. The gun club was established in 1933 and is open 7 days a week. Sporting has been available since 1991.

One of the best features of this high profile club is that you can make your own package. So, if you want to have a wedding, a banquet, a shoot for the guests in the afternoon and a reception party in the evening, it's all available at the Homestead. For girlfriends, ladies and wives who do not shoot, there is the Spa. Need I say more? For reservations call 1 (540) 839 1766. ■



INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE ARE REST AREAS AND READING AREAS. CLOTHES AND SHOOTING ACCESSORIES CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE PRO SHOP.