

Few accolades in the world of sporting clays equal the importance of membership in the NSCA Hall of Fame. You can only get there by selection, in recognition of outstanding achievements, but once inducted, you are forever a member of sporting clays' most exclusive class.

In our game, you are only as good as your last shoot. Whether you win the National Championship or a little club's annual championship, you are only champion until a successor can emerge from the smoke and din of the next championship event. But once you're selected into the Hall of Fame, the title is yours throughout life.

Andy Duffy, who was enshrined into the Hall of Fame in 2005, won his first National Championship in 1994. For an entire year he could claim to be

the National Champion – people would introduce him as the Champ and writers appended the information to his name for a year. In order to carry the recognition beyond the calendar year, Andy would need to win it all again in San Antonio – which he did! Duffy is the only shooter in NSCA history to win back-to-back National Championships – and he won a third in 2002.

The NSCA Hall of Fame inducted Jon Kruger as its first member in 1998, at the tenth annual National meet. As a relatively young organization, the

NSCA claims an impressive number of members whose achievements are noteworthy – and ten of them have already been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

NEW BUILDING

The Hall is located on the grounds of the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. The physical structure that is the HOF Museum is the newest building on the property. It opened its doors in October 2002, and exhibits that were formerly housed in a small doublewide on the property were

transferred into the new edifice.

Mike Brazzell is curator of the Museum and it is obvious that he takes great pride in collecting and displaying memorabilia from our great shooting sport. Mike says that only about a third of the items he has can be displayed at any one time.

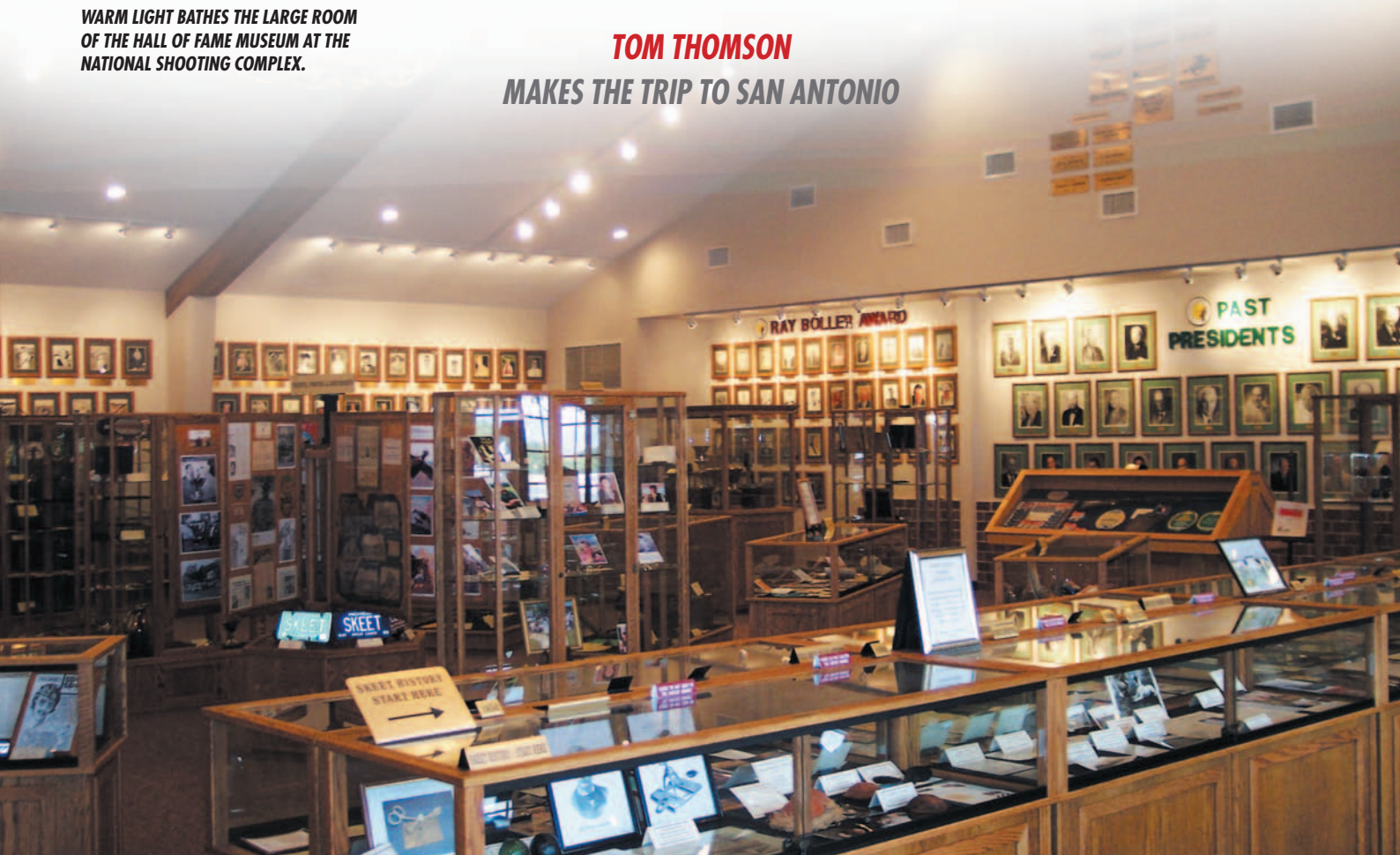
Our common heritage with the Skeet Shooting Association overlaps inside the shared quarters of the NSSA/NSCA Hall of Fame and Museum. Many exhibits are relevant to both sports – after all, much of skeet's early history is significant in the development of shooting sports in America. Visitors to the museum can't help being drawn into the skeet subject matter. Displays on the development of clay targets from their beginnings as colorful glass balls are equally interesting to those who pursue either shooting discipline.

HALL OF FAME

TOM THOMSON

MAKES THE TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO

WARM LIGHT BATHES THE LARGE ROOM OF THE HALL OF FAME MUSEUM AT THE NATIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX.



- 1 PART OF THE EXHIBIT OF SHOTGUN SHELLS ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM. 2 DEVELOPMENTS IN STYLE, SIZE AND SHAPE OF CLAY TARGETS ARE CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED. 3 MIKE BRAZZELL.



4 TROPHY WON BY ACTOR ROBERT STACK. STACK WAS A LIFELONG SHOOTER, WHO STARTED AS A SKEET CHAMPION IN HIS TEENS AND PARTICIPATED IN HOLLYWOOD CHARITY SPORTING CLAYS EVENTS LATER IN LIFE.



Most visitors to the Hall come while attending one of the large tournaments held on the grounds. Too often the visits are brief – perhaps only a respite from the Texas heat! “There are more visitors in one day of the Nationals,” Brazzell says, “than attend all the rest of the year as ‘drop in’ guests.”

ON DISPLAY

The Museum deserves two to four hours to do a good study of the exhibits and to satisfy one’s curiosity. Each beautiful oaken display case abounds with a complete story... here are

ammunition developments... there, the many twists and turns in traps... over in that case a look at reloading devices from a century ago to the multi-stage MEC of just a few years ago. An unhurried visit can easily be arranged with NSCA headquarters by calling ahead anytime throughout the year. Any shooter’s vacation or business trip



THE NEWEST STRUCTURE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE NATIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX HOUSES THE NSSA/NSCA MUSEUM.



5 GUN AND CASE RAFFLED OFF AT THE 2001 NATIONALS THAT WERE DELAYED DUE TO AIR TRAFFIC DELAYS CAUSED BY TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. THE RAFFLE RAISED MONEY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF FLIGHT 93 THAT CRASHED IN PENNSYLVANIA.

to the San Antonio area would not be complete without a visit to the HOF Museum.

I called before my January trip to San Antonio, to ensure that the historic displays would be available to me on one of the days I'd be in town. "Just name the day," Brazzell said, "and we'll be here."

across the large open room. A deer antler chandelier hung suspended from the ceiling in the middle of the room. Recognizable photos of our sport's greats lined the walls. Skeet with its longer history showed off several times as many of their winners. *Trivia question:* Who won the very first

repeated for the next three years successively. Today there is a large engraved perpetual trophy named in Jack's memory, which resides in the museum and denotes Veteran concurrent winners every year. There are no less than eighteen perpetual sporting clays trophies in the Hall.

6 EYE-CATCHING TROPHY THAT MAKES AN INTERESTING DISPLAY.

7 GLASS TARGETS DEVELOPED IN THE 1860s TO REPLACE LIVE BIRDS. GLASS BALLS WERE USED AS TARGETS UNTIL THE LESS EXPENSIVE CLAY BIRDS WERE DEVELOPED.

8 YOUTH TROPHIES ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM.



We have on exhibit a fine history, including artifacts of shotgun target shooting from the 1850s and Skeet shooting from its inception in 1926."

I had never visited the National Shooting Complex before, so I had no idea what to expect. Driving in San Antonio was easy. The highway signs read like place names in a Louis L'Amour novel – El Paso and Laredo, Hondo and Del Rio.

The Shooting Complex is located on the west side of town, less than twenty minutes from the Alamo. Brown dry desert-like plants indicated that the normally wet winter had failed to materialize. Fire hazard warnings were everywhere, reminding all of the danger of wildfire.

I was impressed at the newness of the museum building. My first step inside told me that this was going to be an enjoyable experience. Warm lighting bathed several displays arranged neatly

NSCA Nationals? Hint...it was held in 1989 at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club. The answer is Jim Jamison (The Gunfitter). There is a display in the museum commemorating the event, and it features Jim's gun that's been loaned to the museum. The museum is a shooting trivia fanatic's dream.

At that first National Championship, Jack Johnson won the Veteran trophy – an achievement he

LOANED AND DONATED

One of the most impressive exhibits is referred to as the 9-11 Gun. It memorializes the heroics of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania on the tragic day of September 11, 2001. The disruptions to air traffic on 9-11 left many NSCA members stranded enroute to the Nationals.

The shoot was rescheduled,

and a specially decorated Beretta 391 was donated to be raffled off as a fundraiser to help the families of Flight 93 victims. The gun and a patriotic red, white, and blue soft case was won by Rick Storey, of Katy, Texas, and was loaned to the museum by the winner.



NSCA MEMBERS ENSHRINED IN THE HALL OF FAME

NAME	YEAR OF INDUCTION
Jon Kruger	1998
Bob Brister	1999
S. Hallock DuPont Jr.	2000
Bud Wolfe	2004
Sandy Wood	2004
Doug Fuller	2005
Casey Atkinson	2005
Dr. Thomas Ryan	2005
Andy Duffy	2005
Dieter Krieghoff	2005

A tribute to actor Robert Stack dominates one entryway. Stack was a skeet champion while still in his teens. He maintained an active interest in shotgun shooting throughout his life, and was a generous supporter of celebrity charity fundraiser sporting clays events in Hollywood until he passed away in 2003. Robert

Casey, and Doug. Others we remember for a lifetime of involvement and larger than life reputations like Bob Brister and Bud Wolfe. Hal DuPont and Dieter Krieghoff are readily recognizable names, but more definition of their specific relationship with sporting clays would have been helpful. I had to do research, after arriving

considered in three categories: Shooter accomplishment, Contributions to the sport and Contributions to the involvement of young shooters.

The Museum has indexed much of its collection and is the most complete research facility of its type in the country. To schedule a visit for a brief tour or extensive research, call Mike Brazzell at NSSA/NSCA Headquarters on 210-843-3354. I highly recommend an off-season visit when you can give the facility the time it deserves. ■

...MOST OF THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS HAVE BEEN DONATED OR LOANED BY SHOOTERS SO THAT OTHERS MAY ENJOY THEM. BRAZZELL KEEPS A WATCHFUL EYE ON E-BAY TO PICK UP RELEVANT ITEMS!



STANDING RACK IN CENTER OF MUSEUM FOR DISPLAY OF PHOTOS. TWO THIRDS OF THE MUSEUM COLLECTION IS OFF DISPLAY... DUE IN PART TO SPACE LIMITATIONS.

Stack's family donated most of the materials that are in the tribute exhibit denoting his life and love of shooting. In fact, most of the museum's collections have been donated or loaned by shooters so that others may enjoy them. Brazzell keeps a watchful eye on eBay to pick up relevant items!

home, to get a feel for the significant contributions of Sandy Wood and Dr. Thomas Ryan.

HOF SELECTION

The NSCA website carries a list of qualifications and procedures for Hall of Fame selection. Anyone can nominate someone, and the Executive Council votes on nominees. The Hall of Fame Committee will retain nominations and consider them again from year-to-year. Nominees are

PROTOTYPE OF THE SELF-LOADING WESTERN TRAP THAT BECAME THE STANDARD FOR SKEET SHOOTING.

TOP TEN

The 10 NSCA Hall of Famers are clustered together in photos on the west wall. They are identified by name, and the date of entry into the Hall is noted. For my personal taste, I'd like to see more information about each of them. Some we know by their impressive shooting ability – Jon, Andy,



MEMENTOS FROM SHOOT-GONE-BY FILL THE DISPLAY CASES AT THE NSSA/NSCA MUSEUM.

