

**STEVE FISCHER REPORTS  
FROM THE SECOND  
ANNUAL PAWLING  
MOUNTAIN  
INVITATIONAL –  
A CHARITY EVENT FOR  
OUR SERVICEMEN AND  
FAMILIES**

For the second year, the beautifully manicured grounds of the Pawling Mountain Club – a prestigious private shooting club in upstate New York – hosted a money raising event to aid those of our troops and their families that face personal and financial hardships.

With the prolonged tour of duty in Iraq, Pakistan, and other posts around the world, many of the troops family members who remain at home face a heavy load on strained resources. This is where the Armed Forces Relief Trust comes in.

There are four Military Aid Societies – the Air Force Aid Society, Army Emergency Relief, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief

Society. They have come together to create the Armed Forces Relief Trust, a single, non-profit fund initiated to better collect and disperse donations in support of the troops and their families in need.

Last year, the four emergency programs disbursed more than \$109 million in interest free loans

and grants to 145,000 individuals and families in need. Generally, these needs can be broken down into four categories – emergency, medical, transportation and education. It's a most worthwhile effort, aiding families who have members serving in harm's way and are experiencing a multitude of difficulties in their absence.



**THE TOP GUNS (L TO R): SCOTT ROBERTSON (FIRST), ANTHONY MATARESE JR. (SECOND), JON KRUGER (FIFTH), BILL MCGUIRE (FOURTH) AND WILLY GORDON (THIRD).**

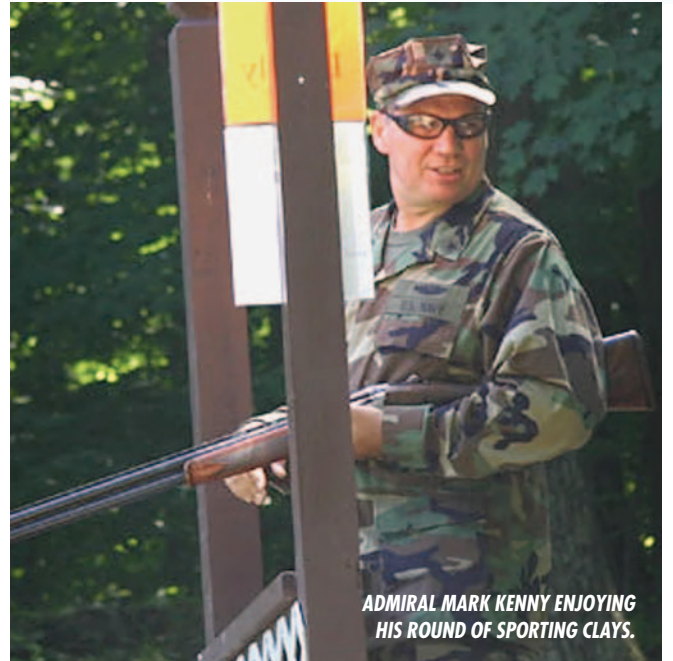
**\$10,000  
PAY DAY!**



The Pawling Mountain Club was keen to help, and stated that 100% of the proceeds would go to the Armed Forces Relief Trust – a tax deductible 501(c)(3) organization. Teams included a ‘pro’ shooter with four amateur competitors who each put up a \$1000 donation to shoot with some of the top shooters in the U.S. for a day.

About 15 teams hit the sporting course, which wound its way through the beautiful mountainous countryside. For the ‘pros’, a \$21,000 purse, divided 5 ways, awaited the top guns while the amateurs got to see ‘how it’s done’, benefiting from some top notch instruction along the way. Closing the 100 target event was a fabulous lunch and a drawing for a Beretta over/under shotgun.

All the expenses associated with hosting this event, including the



**JOHN O'CONNOR, ONE OF THE BENEFACTORS IN THIS EVENT, CHECKING OUT THE LOOONG AND HIGH AERIAL RABBIT!**



generous \$21,000 purse for the 'pros', was underwritten by Anastasie Christiansen Croy, John M.B. O'Connor and the Pawling Mountain Club. Classic Upland Supply Co. attended as a vendor, featuring up-scale accessories, shooting apparel, outdoor footwear and dog training equipment ([www.classicusc.com](http://www.classicusc.com)).

A unique feature of this year's event was the change by the club from using lead ammunition, to requiring all shooters to use 12 gauge shells loaded with Bismuth shot and fiber wads – in keeping with the club's tradition of being a leader in conservation. Two of the local Winchester ammunition rep's were also on hand with sample boxes of Winchester steel target ammunition, in a loading of #7 size steel shot. What was unusual was that the Bismuth shells only



**CLASSIC UPLAND SUPPLY CO. WAS ON HAND FOR THE SHOOTERS ACCESSORY NEEDS.**

contained three quarters of an ounce of shot! This effectively converted the 12 gauge guns to 28 gauge levels (with the limited amount of shot in the shell), but they did break targets within a

reasonable distance quite well – as did the steel loaded shells. The felt recoil of those diminutive shot charges of Bismuth was soft indeed.

Top gun for this year's event

was Scott Robertson, taking home the high gun award of \$10,000. Anthony Matarese Jr. was second, receiving a \$5000 check for his efforts, with Scotsman Willy Gordan's third place netting him a \$3000 check. Defending Champion, Bill McGuire, took home \$2000 followed by a \$1000 payout to Jon Kruger.

The awards ceremony was part of a delicious luncheon set for all the competitors. It was followed by an inspiring talk on the fine job that charities do for our servicemen and women and some insightful comments on the war on terrorism by Admiral Mark Kenny.

The Pawling Mountain Club was a marvelous host for this event – and will be on board next year for another fund raising event benefiting our deserving troops and their families. ■