

IRLENE MANDRELL CELEBRITY SHOOT

AL HAGUE MIXES WITH THE STARS

IN LATE JUNE, CELEBRITIES FROM HOLLYWOOD, NASHVILLE AND VARIOUS OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY CAME TO THE WORLD CLASS SPORTING CLAYS FACILITY AT SEVEN SPRINGS RESORT IN THE BEAUTIFUL AND LUSH LAUREL HIGHLANDS REGION OF PENNSYLVANIA. THEY CAME TO ENJOY THEMSELVES AND SUPPORT IRLENE MANDRELL AT HER ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT – SUPPORTING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND WISH UPON A STAR.

The latter is an independent Evansville based charity whose mission is to grant wishes for children between the ages of 3 and 18 who have been diagnosed with a terminal or life threatening illness.

Wish Upon a Star is perhaps unique in that 100% of donations go to wishes for local children in Southwestern Indiana, Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky. Since its inception, this charity has granted almost 200 wishes to Tri-state children – everything from trips to Disney World and backyard pools to meeting Michael Jordan and the late Dale Earnhardt.

It's well known that those from the arts are very generous with their time and effort for charities and worthwhile causes. This event was no different and there's certainly no doubt as to the continued commitment of Irlene Mandrell.

The 2009 Irlene Mandrell Celebrity Shoot was a four day event, filled with a variety of fun activities and gala evenings, all geared to raising money for charity. It offered an opportunity for anyone to come and shoot on a team with a celebrity and get to know them in a social setting. This was the first year the event was held at the new Seven Springs Sporting Clays facility, part of the Seven Springs Resort. Located a comfortable ninety minute drive east of Pittsburgh, it is the ideal





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facility for this event and plans have already been made to return to Seven Springs in 2010.

Kids Day

This year, for the first time, an extra day was added to the event and will be expanded on next year. It was Irlene's wish to have a day of fun filled events and a day of discovery for kids – so Thursday was designated Kid's Day. At the early morning breakfast provided on the deck of the clubhouse, many of the kids were treated to an inspiring talk by Jon Michael McGrath of the USA Shooting Team. McGrath has many competitive titles to his credit, including the 2008 US National Champion International Skeet at

the age of 17. Shooting since he was 11 years old, he talked about dedication, perseverance in life and always seeking to learn. He answered questions from the crowd about what it is like to be an Olympian and to represent his country. He talked about his goals and plans for the future and provided a very positive message and role model for the youngsters.

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J MICHAEL
McGRATH



WADE BOGGS WITH YOUNG SHOOTER.



support Kids Day. When asked, Irlene said “We’ll do even more of this next year.”

Competition Begins

On the first day of the sporting clays competition, celebrities and shooters were assigned to squads and over the next two days they shot 200 targets for this part of the event. Just because this was a charity event, it doesn’t mean that the competition was less than serious. On more than one occasion you could overhear the Mandrell sisters inquiring how their sisters



SISTERS BARBARA (TOP), LOUISE (CENTRE) AND IRLENE (BELOW).

were doing. According to Irlene, the only part of their growing up when they were not competitive was in music. – they “worked as a team”. However, in everything else, even card games, they were very competitive.

The same could be said for some of the celebrities – many of them had been supporting this event for years and were shooting against friends and professional associates. For others, who are heavily involved in shooting sports, such as TV and movie actor Johnny DiSanti, it was a matter of personal pride to do well. Having seen DiSanti on ‘The World of Beretta’ hunting birds, I knew he didn’t miss often – at least at something he could eat. He’s a great example of celebrities who give of their time and talents for worthwhile charities. I first met him at a Quail Unlimited event in Georgia a few years ago. He was very dedicated to that cause, and has for years supported the Mandrell Celebrity Shoot. His well known hobby is wood turning, making amazing pieces from exotic wood. He generously donated more than one piece to the event auctions.

The list of celebrities in attendance was too long to mention everyone, but a couple of Ladies that have been consistent supporters are actors of stage and



WADE BOGGS AND LESLIE EASTERBROOK.

screen – Leslie Easterbrook of California and Anne Lockhart now from Ft Worth. Both have been shooting for many years and are strong advocates of women in shooting sports. Other celebrities included Wade Boggs, former third baseman for the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees and 2005 inductee to the Baseball Hall of Fame. He’s an avid outdoorsman who enjoys all kinds of hunting and fishing. Boggs and associate, Steve Scott, produce outdoor television shows including safaris and fishing trips to remote regions across the globe.

Fund Raising

The auctions were held on Friday and Saturday evenings, after dinner, in the main ballroom of the Seven Springs resort. Items ranged from new model firearms from Smith and Wesson, Marlin,

Each celebrity brought with them a special item – either from the movie or TV business or something of significant value that could be auctioned at the evening galas.

Remington and CZ to art pieces and safari trips. Western artist Ray Kelly was on hand with a couple of original pieces that were donated for auction, James E. Partee Jr. was also there to see his donated original oil go at auction, as was artist Michael Collins. Their work certainly raised the bar of the funds thermometer.



DONATED ARTWORK BY RAY KELLY (TOP) AND JAMES E PARTEE JR (ABOVE).



LYLE OMORI

SILENT AUCTION.



Each celebrity brought with them a special item – either from the movie or TV business or something of significant value that could be auctioned at the evening galas. Steve Kanaly of TV show Dallas Fame (and a very long list of movie and TV credits) brought his artwork for auction as well. The Mandrell sisters, Barbara, Louise and Irlene all had personal items in the auction including autographed recordings and photographs as well as autographed keepsakes. Several celebrities unable to attend had sent something from their current TV shows – such as Joe Montegna with items from the cast of Criminal Minds. Comic relief throughout the evenings was provided by Florida native and comedian T Bubba, who offered to the high bidder a belly dance since he didn't have a lap! No



T BUBBA

takers on that one. He did however put up at auction that he would go anywhere and perform his famous comedy show for the successful bidder for any charity – a very generous prize appreciated by all. Since auctions are such a large part of fundraising efforts, it was great to see so many quality items on hand. The major sponsors certainly stepped up with much sought after products offered by their respective companies and the crowd responded. Every item went under the hammer – some were great bargains.

Saturday night the results for the 200 targets were available and prizes given. Some excellent scores were recorded on a new and tough course set up by Michael Mohr. The target presentations were fair, but there were also some tough targets. Stations were situated in the woods, with only minimal changes to the natural character of the property. Presentations were great visually, but a bit tricky – depending on the available light and shadows during the day. The top twelve scores out of more than two hundred shooters are listed. Clearly everyone had a great time, regardless of the score and the charities certainly were the beneficiaries.

TOP SCORES

JOHN KLISIEWICZ	195
JOSEPH ZEITLER	192
CHIP GOOD	189
LARRY WENGERT	180
BOB ZEIGLER	178
KEN ANTON	177
CARL POLISENA	175
MIKE GRAVES	174
JOHN DISANTI	174
CHARLES MALLORY	173
JARED MEYERS	171
T. J. KLAY	171

Celebrity Calcutta

The most fun auction, of course, was Saturday night – the Celebrity Calcutta Auction. Each evening, a video of each of the celebrities shot on location was shown, telling those in the audience why they should be bought for the Calcutta. Reasons ranged from, *'because I am a nice guy'* to *'I can out-shoot everyone'*. Each celebrity offered a bonus to the successful bidder of a special token, such as a souvenir from a show or movie the celebrity had worked on.

Johnny D and Ray Kelly sprinted around the ball room

urging, cajoling and even begging bidders to up their bids for each celebrity. The celebrities were offered for a price and bidding began at various levels based on either their reputation or the bonus gift that was included by them for whoever purchased them.

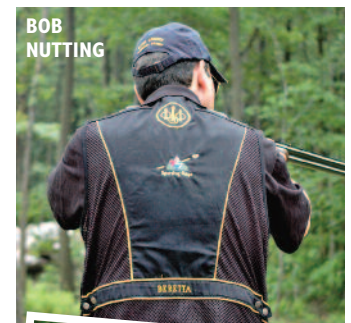
A humorous story emerged when the selections for the celebrity auction were announced. In attendance for two purposes was Jim Scoutten, President of Tier One Media, who currently has four shows on Versus TV – including ShootingUSA which is aired several times weekly. Apparently, because he produces shows on shooting and guns, the Calcutta committee decided he couldn't be one of the celebrities for the Calcutta since he clearly was a professional. Well, as he explained to me, "talking and reporting about guns and actually shooting them are two very different things." Scoutten, by his own admission, is a less than average shot and has never claimed to be anything else and tends to get teased by those in the industry to that effect. "Oh well, anyone that knows me wouldn't have bid on me anyway." More importantly, Scoutten had brought along a film crew to document the event for a future show segment – and was there to lend his support to Irlene. At the end of Saturday evening,

each celebrity had a sponsor and Sunday the Calcutta would begin.

Sunday dawned a bright and warm morning and early on the



IRLENE MANDRELL AND JOHN WORREL.



BOB NUTTING



ANNE LOCKHART AND SON ZANE TAYLOR.



BARBARA MANDRELL AND FILM CREW.

KEVIN BLAKE WELDON AND SQUAD.**JIM SCOUTTEN TIER MEDIA ARRIVING.**

teasing and good-hearted ribbing started. At the end of the competition two celebrities stood together at the top of the score board in a tie. The numbers are not important here, but the two gentlemen tied were actor Johnny DiSanti from Branson (MO) and country western music star Kevin

Blake Weldon. As is customary in shooting sports, a shoot-off was going to be required. After the smoke cleared Johnny D was declared the winner. Needless to say he was a happy man but was very gracious in victory.

He's a fun guy and spends a lot of his time on worthwhile causes – "I'll be back next year to defend my title and to continue supporting Irlene and her chosen charities."

Great Success

The 2009 Irlene Mandrell Celebrity Shoot was a great success. Raising money for charities by way of sporting clays is becoming ever more popular across the country. The Mandrell Charities team certainly put together a fun and successful event. It takes many months to make it all happen and Irlene confirmed how grateful she is to

John Worrell and the wonderful volunteers on the Board of Directors. She also thanked sponsors, at all levels, who were so generous and supportive.

Having discovered and established a great relationship with the Seven Springs Resort and Sporting Clays Director, Michael Mohr, plans are already underway for 2010. President and CEO of Seven Springs, Bob Nutting, addressed the gathering the first

evening to express his delight and commitment to the event and to acknowledge the relationship for the future. According to Worrell, event co-ordinator, next year will be even bigger due to the commitments already received and the interest generated from this year's event. To see all the details on the celebrities and the results you can visit www.irlenemandrellshoot.com Hope to see you there next year! ■

