

The Seven Springs Mountain Resort Sporting Clays facility hosted the 2010 Irby Mandrell Charity Shoot July 8-11. In years previous, this event has been called the Irlene Mandrell Celebrity Shoot and has benefited the Boy Scouts of America

and The Wish Upon a Star Foundation. This year, Irlene and family – along with their sponsors and supporters – decided to name the tournament in honor of her father who passed away in March '09 just prior to this event last year. Shooters from all over the country traveled to shoot the courses at

Seven Springs and to honor the memory of Irby Mandrell – a shooting sports advocate.

Day One

Thursday was Kids Day with events offered to many young people who might not otherwise

The 2010 IRBY MANDRELL CHARITY SHOOT

A REPORT BY AL HAGUE



KIDS INSTRUCTION ON SAFE SHOOTING.



have an opportunity to be introduced to shooting sports in a safe and expert environment. Sponsors

such as Smith & Wesson, CZ and Marlin provided small caliber rifles and handguns along with expert instructors to show the curious youngsters how to safely enjoy the fun of target shooting. Flyfishing and archery experiences were also available along with airgun target shooting. Judging by the smiles and enthusiasm of the youngsters, everyone had fun – including their parents. Prizes were awarded to the participating youngsters – along with the FBI taking fingerprints as part of the FBI's Community Outreach Program for youths of five years of age and older. The children's fingerprints, taken by an FBI agent, were given to the parents or guardians in the event of a tragedy, natural disaster, abduction or runaway situation.

Day Two

The sporting clays event started with registration at the beautiful and

spacious Seven Springs clubhouse. General Manager, Michael Mohr, and staff, were available to handle every detail. Each participant received a welcome package from sponsors. At the appointed time, everyone climbed in their assigned carts to head out to the wooded course chosen for the first day of competition. This was a 200 target event over two days, with morning and afternoon flights being reversed each day to make it fair.

Seven Springs offers three courses, cut into the beautiful mountain-side, all with pathways and well appointed shooting stations. Each station has multiple traps that provide the ability to

have virtually any presentation at any station. The first day's targets were tough – everyone agreed. Rabbits, battues, chandelles, incomers, outgoers – you name it and Mohr and his staff gave shooters a bit of everything!

The weather was pretty hot and humid the first day, with a bit of rain showing up for the second flight which started at 1:00pm. At the end of day one, two shooters were close at the top. It's important to remember that many of those attending are not regular competitors, but come to the event for fun and to be part of a special event that gives so much to worthwhile charities. However, there was no doubt that competition was serious for some. Perhaps the most serious competition was between Irlene and her sister Louise! At half way, they were close on target count. According to both, they have always been competitive – except when it came to their music and then it was all teamwork.

Day 1 had Joseph Zeitler on top with a well crafted 91, followed by John Klisiewicz, nine back at 82. Celebrity top score for the day

Day 1 had Joseph Zeitler on top with a well crafted 91, followed by John Klisiewicz, nine back at 82.



CELEBRITY SHOOTERS TJ CLAY AND PATRICK KIRKPATRICK.

went to TJ Klay. This Nashville singer songwriter (and 19-year Hohner Harmonica artist) was an original member of the country band "Western Flyer." His harmonica, mandolin, guitar and

harmony vocals graced the group's two CD's and helped garner four hit singles and three CMT videos. They performed for the Kansas City Royals, the Martin Luther King Foundation and President

Clinton. TJ performs solo and with a Trio at venues and shooting events across the country. He's currently a member of the Pro-Staff for HiViz. With his publishing company, Sporting Klay's Music, he has released four solo CDs. He wrote and produced "The Grand American" CD for the ATA's Grand American Trapshooting Championship; the "San Antonio in September" CD for the NSCA's Sporting Clays Nationals and the "Shoot for the Moon" CD for USA Shooting. (The song was featured in the video promotion for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.) TJ is certainly heavily involved in shooting sports and it was no

surprise he posted a proficient score for two days of 146.

Day Three

On the second day of competition, the afternoon flight from the previous day was out first and the weather had cooled nicely with rainstorms overnight. However, along with the weather pattern changes came breezy conditions, swirling between the trees, making some of the targets that much tougher. When the courses were originally created, Michael Mohr and Seven Springs owner, Bob Nutting, were very cognizant of keeping the forest around the

Irby Mandrell

Irby was a husband, father, grand-father, musician, police officer and WWII navy veteran. During the first evening's dinner at this special charity event, each of his famous daughters shared with the attendees their memories of their father.

Irlene, Louise and Barbara were all in agreement that Dad was a great and good man who got things done. He started the Mandrell family band to give his daughters the opportunity to promote their talents and share his love of music. Everyone in the family, as time went on, became a part of the group. His wife of 60 years, Mary, played bass guitar and eventually Ken Dudney became the bands drummer. (Years later he would serve in the Navy as a pilot and fly missions in Vietnam and fall in love with Barbara and raise a family.)

Irby played rhythm guitar, sang and fronted the band with Barbara, singing at the early age of 14. He managed all the business details – from the bookings to driving the old bus they used to get around. According to Barbara, he was a pretty good negotiator and would prefer to have his contracts on a handshake – he really was a man of his word.

It all started for the Mandrells in Oceanside (CA) and when Barbara's career began to take off, the family moved to Nashville. Irby managed Barbara's career for thirty eight years until serious illness forced him to slow down.

In 1965 Irby took his group, including his wife Mary and Barbara, to Vietnam to entertain the troops. This commitment was not as part of the USO, but on their own as a family – such was his love and respect for the men serving their country.

Aside from his musical talents, Irby Mandrell is remembered as being completely dedicated to shooting sports and the people's right to bear arms. His daughters learned this from him early on and appreciate the legacy he passed on to them. Most of the shooters attending and donating generously never met Irby, but all appreciate who the man was and how important he was to Irlene and family. All of the sisters are serious outdoors women, which includes shooting, but Irlene is perhaps the most serious, having hunted all over the world.



The hardwoods in full leaf bloom create many challenging shadows making some of the targets difficult to see early.



stations as natural as possible. As a result, on some stations you really need to carefully select your hold and break points. The hardwoods in full leaf bloom create many challenging shadows making some of the targets difficult to see early.

The weather gods were kind for the remainder of the day and scores were up over the previous day – as predicted by Mohr. The true pairs were fair but challenging and the report pairs made every shooter pay attention to the nuances of each presentation.

The trappers and staff at Seven Springs really are the best. Many of the guys and gals working at the

venue are instructors (various levels) and all are helpful and want the customer's experience to be the very best. It's hard to imagine a better place for an event such as this – or perhaps any event. Maybe one day we can attend a US Open at Seven Springs. It certainly has everything necessary and more.

Dinners and Auctions

Each night dinner was served followed by a live auction to benefit the charities. The main sponsors certainly stepped up to the plate with quality items for auction.

S&W, Ithaca, CZ, North American Arms, Marlin and Browning all offered multiple handguns, rifles, air rifles and shotguns – raising a lot of money for the Boy Scouts. High value collectibles, artwork and statues (all donated) raised additional money for the other charities.

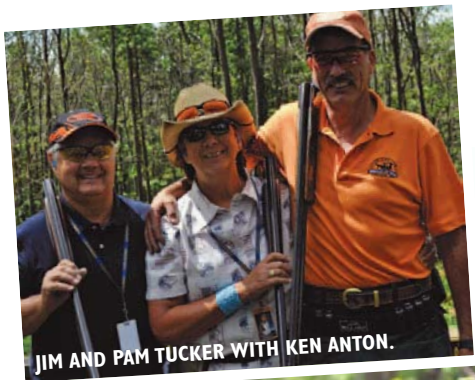
In previous years, Irlene's charity earned enough money to provide more than 200 rifles for Boy Scout Councils shooting programs all around the country. The money raised this year will be used similarly, along with support for The Wish Upon a Star Foundation. Attendees were very

generous in their bidding and much fun was had by all.

Professional Master of Ceremonies, Jon Pelz, a very talented performer himself, gave the dinner and auctions a flair seldom seen at charity events. His humor and fun attitude, along with his magic tricks with audience participation, made for a great atmosphere.

Presenting this amazing event takes a lot of work, and as always, there are many people behind the scenes making it all happen. Everything from arrangements with the resort to securing and working with all the sponsors takes time and effort. Two of those unknown heroes are Mandrell

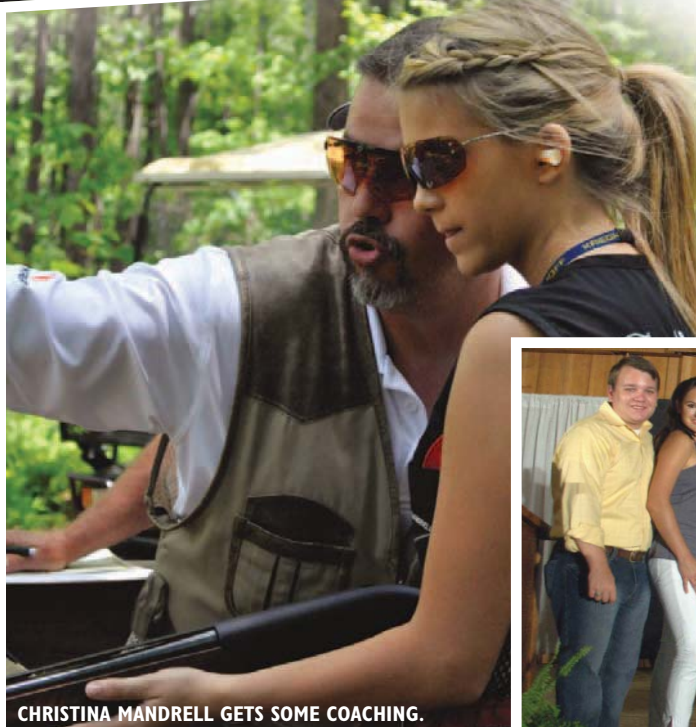
It's hard to imagine a better place for an event such as this – or perhaps any event. Maybe one day we can attend a US Open at Seven Springs. It certainly has everything necessary and more.



JIM AND PAM TUCKER WITH KEN ANTON.



FUN LOVING TEXAS DIVAS.



CHRISTINA MANDRELL GETS SOME COACHING.



BARBARA MANDRELL.



LOUISE MANDRELL.



THREE GENERATIONS OF MANDRELL FAMILY.



RIGHT: VANESSA MANDRELL HELPS OUT DURING THE AUCTION.
BELOW: PARTY IN FULL SWING.
BOTTOM: LOUISE MANDRELL WITH JOHN ZEITLER (HOA – 180).
FAR RIGHT: A DRESSED UP TEXAS DIVA.



husbands. These ladies know how to have a good time – and judging by some of the outfits these ladies wore I wouldn't argue with them.

Celebrities and friends alike enjoyed the great surroundings of the Seven Springs Mountain Resort. No plans for next year were announced, but you can be sure that Irlene and her family will find a way to continue supporting their charities and have fun again. ■



shooting was challenging but entertaining and a lot of money was raised for very worthwhile charities.

The Texas Divas, a group of about 1500 members from all over the country with the love of the outdoors, were represented by several members and a couple of

Charities board members Sondra and Grover DePriest. According to John Worrel, Board Chairman, these two great folks put in endless hours of work and support all year long to make this event successful.

The Saturday night dinner and auction was also Awards Night. John Zeitler held on with a total score of 180 to take the HOA top prize of \$2500. John Klisiewicz maintained his runner up position with a total 172. Lady High Overall went to Marty Mabry with a score of 144. High female celebrity went to Louise Mandrell (136). All winners in class received autographed plaques and gifts.



BOB NUTTING OF SEVEN SPRINGS WITH FAMILY.



TOP AND RIGHT: VENDORS FROM KRIEGHOFF AND ITHICA. ABOVE: SEVEN SPRINGS CLUB HOUSE. RIGHT: ALL CAUGHT ON CAMERA.



Great Success

The 2010 Irby Mandrell Memorial Shoot was fun for everyone – just as a charity shoot should be. The

In Conversation with Irlene Mandrell

During this year's event, I had the opportunity to talk with Irlene, founder of Irlene Mandrell Charities Inc, to talk about her memories of her Dad, her life today and her charitable work.

WHAT'S YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF YOUR DAD?

Fortunately I have many. But perhaps the most important is the example he set for all of us. Daddy got things done. He was a man of his word, he like to joke around quite a bit but always took care of everybody. He had enormous energy. He would drive the bus all night and perform the next day and deal with all the business details. His belief in our right to own firearms and enjoy shooting sports was a gift he passed on to all of us.

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE NOW A LEVEL I SPORTING CLAYS INSTRUCTOR. WHY?

I love shooting and wanted to get better, so I took the Level I course from Michael Mohr here at Seven Springs.

AND DID YOU ENJOY IT?

Very much so – and it has helped me with my shooting as well.

HOW, WITH YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE, WILL YOU FIND TIME TO TEACH?

That's sure to be a challenge, but I do have some friends that are expecting me to work with them, so we'll see how that goes.

DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE YOUR FEMALE CELEBRITY FRIENDS TAKING UP SPORTING CLAYS?

That's hard to say, but I do promote this sport wherever I go – so maybe.

WILL YOU MOVE UP TO LEVEL II AT SOME POINT?

Part of that process is to give lessons and have the student sign my card. So, it'll

depend on how many lessons I actually give – but Level I really was more for my own improvement. However, if more comes out of it, great. I sure hope to.

HOW CAN THE SPORT ATTRACT MORE WOMEN SHOOTERS?

I think it's already happening. There are many more women shooting today than I remember in the past. We also need to remember that women are a big influence on the youngsters that are attracted to this sport. If it's not OK with Mom, then maybe it won't happen. We need more effort on education, but all shooters can help by inviting a non-shooting friend to give it a try – especially if she's a Mom!

WHAT'S DOWN THE ROAD FOR IRLENE MANDRELL?

I continue hosting a show at weekends at the Nashville Palace and I will be a spokesperson for some new products soon to be introduced by Smith and Wesson. I'll continue to do hunting shows – and of course keep my family happy. I have two amazing daughters, Vanessa and Christina, and a wonderful son Deric – all currently working on their careers and future plans. I also enjoy working with my Foundation on the chosen charities, all year long, which is very important to me.

