

# HARD LABOR CREEK

## SHOOTING SPORTS

Skeet - Trap - 3D Archery  
*Hunting Preserve*



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### October Issue

#### Special Interest Articles:

- Archery Tournament
- Skeet Tournament
- Jakes Day

#### Individual Highlights

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## First 3-D Archery Tournament Results

The First Annual Fall 3-D Archery Tournament was held at Hard Labor Creek Shooting Sports (HLCSS) on September 29, 2007. Some 20 archers, including traditional, youth and hunter class participants enjoyed a morning of competition, fellowship and a great lunch. First place winners were Greg Thomas, Hunter Class- Jamey Hayes, Youth Class and Luke Lawler- Traditional Class. Congratulations to all of the winners!



## HLCSS Host Jakes Day Event



The NWTF local chapter, The Washington County Longspurs, Jakes Day was held at Hard Labor Creek Shooting Sports and all that attended truly had a blast learning about firearm safety, skeet, and trap shooting with Rick Warden and Gary Clark.

Greg Williams donated the NWTF shotgun that was won by a very excited and lucky Cameron Jeffries. Hard Labor Creek Shooting Sports was pleased to be a part of this event.

## Hard Labor Creek Plantation Now Booking 07-08 Hunts



*HCLP accommodations include a beautiful, rustic, three story "A Frame" cabin on a private 85 acre lake"*

The first hint of fall in the air usually prompts most avid hunters to get out those trusty old guns and start getting them cleaned up and ready for the season. As you make your plans for this season consider booking your quail hunt with Hard Labor Creek Plantation (HLCP). HLCP offers the finest in Southern hospitality and first class accommodations, hunting, dogs and guides. Whether

it's a full day, half day or even a multi day hunt, we can provide you with all of the services and amenities to fit your needs. Corporate groups, families, young and young at heart are all welcome at HLCP. Hunt packages start at just \$250.00 per person for a half day hunt and includes the opportunity to harvest 15 birds. Book your hunt now by calling 850-527-6063.



## 4-H Sureshots off to busy start

The Washington County Sureshots are off to a busy start this year with several new members and several veterans returning to the group. The 5<sup>th</sup> place State finish for the Senior team has motivated the group to concentrate on a great placing for this upcoming year. Returning shooters Jamey Hayes and Branson Porter continue to lead the team

with consistent scores in the 20-24 range. The Intermediates are also looking very promising this year with several new shooters joining veterans John Michael Walsingham and Morgan Locke to round out a very young and capable team. The team continues to practice regularly and will be competing in several upcoming shoots this fall. To top off their successes

the Senior Team won First Place in the first ever HLCSS Skeet Tournament. Congratulations to the SureShots.

## Special Thanks to War Eagle Outdoor Supply-Your local archery supply

Thanks to our good friends Donnie and Tammy Bush at War Eagle Outdoor Supply for their assistance in getting the HLCSS 3-D Archery Course up and running. If you are in need of a new bow, I encourage you to give War Eagle a try. Their selection of Hoyt, Browning and PSE Bows

is second to none....and the prices are great. They also have a great selection of accessories as well. Give them a call at 547-4215.

without the expertise of Joe Hamway. Joe has spent many hours working on the trails and setting up targets for you to enjoy. Joe is also our in house archery official. Thanks Joe for all your hard work.

In addition to War Eagle Outdoor we would not be where we are today

## Upcoming Events- Archery Tournament Dec. 1st

With the huge success of the first archery tournament, we will be hosting our second tournament of the season on December 1, 2007. The tournament will begin with registration and breakfast at 7:00 AM. The tournament will begin at 8:30. Shooters may use the practice range at no charge from 7-8:30 that morning. Classes will consist of open, hunter, traditional and youth. Prizes will be awarded for the top three places in all categories. The registration fee for the tournament will be \$25 the

day of the tournament or \$20.00 if you register in advance. For more information or to register, stop by the range and pick up your registration form. Just a reminder to those devoted deer hunters: deer season is closed that weekend.

As promised, lights are on the way for the skeet, trap and archery practice ranges. Lights will be delivered next week and should be installed by Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

Expanded operating hours will be announced as soon as

they are determined. Be sure and let us know what night works best for you!

The rifle and pistol range is up and running. The rifle range is about 75 yards and the pistol range goes out to about 40 yards.

No matter what shooting sport you are in to...skeet, trap, rifle, pistol or archery, we have what you are looking for.

Remember... private bookings are available for your company, family or group. 850-557-1329.



## Membership Dues

A new dues structure will be announced on November 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming year. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> yearly memberships will be available with different levels of participation available. This change is in response to your requests and suggestions. Yearly discounts as well as all inclusive options will be available to members. Corporate memberships and family memberships will also be available. Many people have asked why we have a member

organization and dues. This system allows us to limit liabilities and to develop a long range plan for enhancing the range and shooting opportunities. By establishing memberships we are able to determine interest level and to invest the necessary resources for your enjoyment. The more members we are able to get involved the more enhancements you will see to the range. Stay tuned for more details



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*"The more members we are able to attract the more enhancements we will make to the range" HLCSS.*

## Taking it to the Dove Field- by Steve Layton



The smoke hasn't even cleared from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and I am already anticipating the upcoming dove season. Parched fields of brown top millet, sunflowers and wheat have been planted for the annual "coming out" party of the upcoming hunting season.

When the phone rings and you are invited to a dove hunt, do you have it all together, I mean literally? There is a lot more to it than grabbing the gun and a handful of mismatched shells, that is, if you want to be prepared, comfortable and successful.

My gun and choke selections typically depend on the size field I will be hunting. It also has a lot to do with whether my daughters will be shooting with me. When they arrive home from college, they tend to grab the, simple-to-use, over and under models. And that's exactly why they were purchased, so they could join me in the field. Dove hunting is a



family sport in the southern states. Men, women, and supervised children are finding plenty of fun in the wing shooting sports. It's one of the few hunting situations where young people don't have to be quiet or sit completely still. At the same time, there are some things that need to be addressed before anyone leaves for the hunt.

Hunters need to have completed their Hunter's Education Course and everyone who is 16 and older needs both their state license and HIP stamp/permit for hunting migratory game birds. For those who shoot automatic shotguns, make sure an approved plug is inserted into the magazine, limiting them to a three shot capacity.

This all sounds pretty elementary until our friends in law enforcement have to explain it to you while writing a ticket. Not only is it very embarrassing, it can take the fun and

fellowship right out of a dove hunt.

If you are supervising a young hunter for the day, TAKE ONE GUN and sit directly behind him within arm's reach. Your job, and complete attention, should be focused on the young shooter. Two people, standing this close together, with two guns; will provide the recipe for an accident. Don't risk it!

Here are some other items to consider before flying out the door. Gather these ahead of time and you will be ready for opening day.

- Dove stool – I like the swivel-top buckets while others may prefer a chair style with back support. Make sure it's comfortable. You may be sitting on it for half a day!

- High brass shells – Sometimes when the birds keep flying, it's not always due to poor shooting. Lack of range can also limit a hunter's success. Taking an emergency box of high brass shells can sometimes mean the difference in scoring or leaving empty handed. The extra powder and punch can be beneficial, especially when it comes to high wind and high flying birds.
- Spare choke – Start wide and carry at least one narrower. I witnessed Gary turn an unproductive shoot into a success by simply exchanging an improved cylinder choke to a modified while in the field. High birds require a tighter pattern. Otherwise, you may come home with mostly feathers.
- Sunscreen – It's Murphy's Law. "No matter where I sit, I'll be facing the sun!" The new "stick" versions of sunscreen are perfect for protecting the face and they don't seem to run into my eyes like the lotions. Don't forget to apply to ears and necks where caps won't cover.
- Sunglasses / Protective eyewear – Falling shot is the primary consideration for eye protection but so is spent powder. Take it from a left-handed shooter; one speck of gunpowder in your eyes will have you instantly flushing them with water. Relief from eyestrain while facing the sun is another bonus of sunglasses during a dove hunt. Leave the shiny reflective mirrored styles at home and opt for the gray or amber lenses with dark frames. This is a time for you to see and not be seen.
- Plenty of water – The early seasons in a dove field can be brutally hot. Water and sports drinks are the best in the field. They quench thirst and replace what you are sweating away. Bring anything stronger and the host may ask you to leave the field and there won't be phone call next year! Don't ruin a good thing; keep your alcohol drinks at home.
- Dogs – I love to watch them work and they can make for a great hunt. Retrievers depend on their owners for their safety. Bring drinking water and lots of it. It's the only way dogs have of regulating their body temperature. Consider a location in the field that provides some source of shade for the dog. Think of wearing a mink coat to the field and you'll have an idea of how much shade they require. Bring a check cord, leash, and a ground stake. Trust me; dogs never act the same in public as they do at home.

This sounds like quite a lot to carry but most of these items will fit either in your vest pockets or in your dove stool. There are others you may want to add to your personal list to make the day more comfortable and enjoyable.

Dove hunting is one of our most traditional forms of southern hunting. I have witnessed my own children and other novice hunters experience the thrill of knocking down that first flying bird. Nothing compares to the look on their faces as they watch a dog retrieve it to their hand. At that moment, the spell is cast and they fall in love with wing shooting. Now this time each year, they join the rest of us dove hunters and are just waiting for the phone to ring. When it does, it pays to have your act together.

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## **Hours of Operation**

**Thursday-Friday  
1:00PM – Dark**

**Saturday  
7:00AM – Dark**

**Sunday  
1:00 – 6:00PM**

**Private Bookings  
Available**

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### **Staff:**

**Derek Hayes**

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# Ten Tips To Better Wing & Clay Shooting

by Bob Knopf

All shotgun shooters want to shoot better. But for many shooters, a handful of shooting mistakes create frustration in the field or on the range. Instructors at the *National Wing & Clay Shooting School* help shooters at all skill levels gain proficiency by eliminating mistakes and by helping each shooter trust their instincts. Consider these 10 shooting tips to develop your maximum shotgun shooting potential.



**Tip #1** - In all shooting, practice safety first. Always wear hearing and eye protection. Keep your gun unloaded and the action visibly open until you're ready to shoot. Once you are finished shooting, make sure the gun is once again empty and the action is open. Always keep the gun's muzzle pointed down range. Never point a gun muzzle backward over your shoulder.

**Tip #2** - Practice swinging and mounting an unloaded gun to your face in front of a mirror. Make sure you stand erect. Do not lower your face to the gun or tilt your head. Lift the gun straight up using a short concise motion. Be sure to use both hands equally, as though they were connected by a steel rod. Mount the gun precisely from the same starting position each time. Always mount to the same place on your face each time. Mount the gun to the face not the shoulder. Do ten swing/mounts each day. (The best shots make this part of their daily routine.)

**Tip #3** - When shooting (or practicing your swing/mounts), position your feet so that a line extending from your rear heel to your leading foot points to where you will break the target. Keep your stance relatively narrow. This position encourages a smooth swing and a good follow through.

**Tip #4** - Learn to first swing the gun and then mount it. If we mount the gun as we swing to the target, the mount takes no time. Allow your pointing instincts to take over your swing. As your eyes become sharply focused on the target, finish the gun mount and shoot the instant the target is in sharp focus.

**Tip #5** - When pointing your gun, focus on the target and not the gun barrel or bead. Point, don't aim. Aiming slows your swing and causes you to shoot behind. Since a shot string is 10-14' long, use it to your advantage by pointing slightly more in front of a target. If you miss crossing targets, you are probably shooting behind. Try to "miss" in front by doubling your lead, and if still missing, try doubling the lead again.

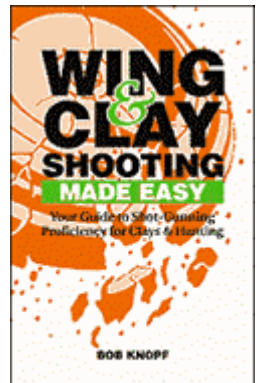
**Tip #6** - Gun fit is important. Have your gun fitted so it shoots where you look. This test requires that you first have a consistent, well practiced gun mount. To test for gun fit, set up a pattern board at 16 yards. Fire several consecutive shots by mounting and shooting at a center dot without aiming, but by merely pointing at the target. If the highest pattern density is off center, take the target and your gun to a competent gun fitter for adjustment.

**Tip #7** - When shooting simultaneous (true) pairs, decide ahead of time which target you will break. Generally, shoot the behind or lower target first, unless one target is quick to disappear behind cover or is decidedly more difficult. Shooting the lower target first allows gun recoil to bring you automatically to the upper target. Shooting the back target first allows your swing to continue smoothly to the front target.

**Tip #8** - When you're experiencing a missing streak, change something. Change one of your postures. Double your lead. Or, give yourself less think time by moving your gun hold point and target view point closer to the break point. Pull the trigger the instant the gun is mounted to your face and the target is in focus.

**Tip #9** - Use low recoil target loads for practice. Shotshells containing 7/8-1 oz shot are adequate for practice. The lessened amount of shot with more powder gives these shells high velocity, low recoil, and excellent pattern integrity. Many tournament shooters prefer these light loads even under tough tournament shooting conditions.

**Tip #10** - Regular practice improves scores. However, when practice no longer improves your hitting ability, take a lesson from a certified NSCA instructor. A competent instructor can diagnose specific shooting problems and improve your proficiency. The dollars paid to a competent instructor are quickly returned in better scores and saved ammunition.



Learn the techniques taught at the National Wing & Clay Shooting School.



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Shooting Sports

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*“Teach your kid to hunt  
and you’ll never have to  
hunt your kid”*

Vol 1, Issue 1

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.hardlaborskeet.com](http://www.hardlaborskeet.com)

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## Dates to Remember

### **HLCSS 3-D Archery Tournament Dec 1st**

**Archery** Oct. 13 - Nov. 11

**Deer-dog training** Oct. 27 - Nov. 15

**Crossbow** Nov. 26 - Dec. 2

**Muzzle loading gun** Nov. 16-18 & Feb. 14-24

**General gun** Nov. 22-25 & Dec. 8 - Feb. 13

**Antlerless deer** Dec. 15-21

**Fall turkey\*** Nov. 22-25 & Dec. 8 - Jan. 13

**Quail and gray squirrel** Nov. 10 - March 2

**Bobcat and otter** Dec. 1 - March 1

**Spring turkey\*\*** March 15 - April 20

### *About Our Company...*

Hard Labor Creek Shooting Sports is a full service shooting range and hunting preserve offering warm hospitality, outstanding service and a commitment to providing

you with a safe, kid friendly, family oriented outdoor experience. Owners Ted Everett and Gary Clark are committed to the promotion of the shooting sports, hunter

ethics and youth involvement.

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