

# Regional Tournaments



By Brad Glustoff

## ALS Fundraiser

**Southern California's Triple B Clays, along with head instructor Jim Porter, hosted a worthwhile charity shoot to benefit victims of Lou Gehrig's disease by supporting research.**

**A**myotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, affects thousands of Americans every year. Currently there's no cure, and there's not much the average shooter can do about that. But when Jim Porter, head instructor at Triple B Clays in South El Monte, California, asked local shooters to come out November 4 and support an event to raise money for ALS research, they responded in droves. You see, Porter not only supports ALS research, he has ALS. Even though most days he's confined to his scooter or golf cart, he can still be found at the range working with junior shooters. Porter's passion is bringing in new shooters, and he does more for our sport than any 10 people you'll ever meet.

Porter, along with range owner Bruce Barsotti, wanted this tournament to be more than just fluff targets and fundraising. These two concocted 12 of the most challenging, fun, wacky, and unusual stations you've ever seen in sporting clays.

The day started under typical Southern California fall weather—mid 70s and sunny. After a hearty meal of breakfast burritos, shooters made their way onto the course. The mood was light, and everybody was enjoying themselves. They were there to have fun, but all in attendance knew the seriousness of the day.

Some stations featured unusual challenges, such as targets bouncing off a trampoline, rabbits that skipped over water, or a gravity rabbit that fell from a 50-ft. crane. Still other stations offered a chance to "buy" your way out of the chal-

lenge, all in the name of fundraising. If you wanted to use a pump gun on a "three-shot station," there was no charge; if you wanted to use an autoloader, it cost you. Another three-shot station offered shooters a chance to get a "house triple" with one shot. If you needed to pull the trigger more than once, it cost you.

The stations that really had shooters talking had to be the last three. Third station from the end saw shooters using a side-by-side with what had to be 12-lb. triggers. The referee explained that people afflicted with ALS often lose strength in their hands first. The next station had a motorized wheelchair. You had to shoot report pairs while seated in it. Here the referee explained that as ALS progresses, so does the loss of motor skills.

The final station had shooters stumped. They could see that the targets were two true pair of incoming teal. What they couldn't see was the shooting position. As you made your way past the black fencing that obscured your view, you were greeted by an ominous scene. A real, full-size coffin surrounded by flowers awaited you. More than one person bought their way out of this one. No explanation was needed here. The symbolism of the last three stations wasn't lost on anybody.

With a lunch of barbecued brisket and pumpkin pie awaiting shooters, the mood quickly returned to a cheerful one. While competitors awaited the final scores, there were side games that could be played. The Cotton Ball Shoot involved breaking a relatively easy outgoing target. The hard part was getting the cotton ball affixed to the bottom of the clay bird to fall into one of the buckets placed downrange. In 5-Card Teal, you had to be good at breaking teal *and* be lucky at cards.

In addition, there was a raffle that included several firearms and a silent auction that included Budweiser logo items generously donated by Bob Adams from Straub Distributing. The live auction featured a weekend at Pennsylvania's Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, a week in a condo in Maui, and a week in Mexico.

While waiting for the scores to be posted, I had a chance to speak to Antho-



The author shoots the final station, a serious reminder of the incurable disease.

ny Juarez, one of the upcoming Junior shooters in our sport. When I asked him how he did, he responded with, "I think I did pretty well out there. I only dropped three birds the whole day."

Juarez did do pretty well, his 97x100 earning him HOA honors. Local shooter Bryan Laws and current California State champ Tom John were one and three birds back, respectively.

Range owners Bruce and Billie Barsotti briefly took center stage and thanked everyone for attending. Bruce announced that now that he has a whole year to plan next year's event, it is going to be even more challenging, fun, wacky, and unusual. This is one tournament that should definitely be on your 2007 schedule. For more information on ALS, visit the ALS Association website at [www.alsa.com](http://www.alsa.com). More info on Triple B Clays can be found at [www.triplebclays.com](http://www.triplebclays.com).

### ALS Fundraiser Triple B Sporting Clays South El Monte, California November 4, 2006

HOA	Anthony Juarez	97
Class One		
1	Bryan Laws	96
2	Tom John	94
2	Joe Garbiero	92
Class Two		
1	Steve Marshall Sr.	82
2	Sean Reichel	82
3	Trevor Reichel	82
Class Three		
1	Tab Brown	73
2	Patti Miller	73
3	Sheri Legate	73
Class Four		
1	Garrett Gutierrez	62
2	Lori Di Pasquale	62
3	Grant Hancock	62