

Joe Whitehurst



Hall of Fame

In 1952, when Joe Whitehurst was nine years old, his dad put a shotgun in his hands, and it seems he has had one there ever since. First, Joe went bird hunting with his dad and brothers then, later, at family get-togethers, they would shoot clay targets. In his twenties, Joe began shooting skeet in competition and, after many years of that, advanced to trapshooting. Since that time he has shot in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arizona. Over the years Joe has shot thousands of registered targets and has become acquainted with a wonderful group of people.

He has developed friendships that will last a lifetime and over the past several years has been fortunate enough to shoot on a squad with four great friends, Dudley Clark, Billy Burrows, Brianna Huff and Rick Seaton. One of the highlights of his shooting career has been a trip to Sparta, Illinois with Dudley Clark, to shoot at the Grand American the

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first year it was held in that location. Another highlight was having the opportunity to meet Leo Harrison III, who Joe feels was the best trap shooter ever.

Joe's claim to fame is trading for a shotgun, shooting it well then selling it and starting the process all over again. His friends give him a hard time about it, but judging from his success, it works well for him.

Joe is a natural leader, and was honored to serve as President of the New Mexico State Trapshooting Association for five years. During that period he wishes to acknowledge the hard work of two great friends who served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Association: Mark Weber and Robert Trobough. Their hard work during those five years contributed greatly to the success of the N.M.S.T.A.

For the past three years Joe has been the trap coach for over 30 Junior High and High School trap shooters at the 4P Trap Club. Joe feels coaching these young shooters is a privilege and is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of this sport with them. Joe emphasizes safety and sportsmanship as well as technique when he works with the young people and is careful to help them build self-confidence as he instructs and guides them. Many of his students are now participating and excelling regularly in A.T.A. and A.I.M. shoots throughout New Mexico and West Texas.

Joe has been blessed by the sport of trapshooting which has allowed him to make many good friends, trade guns and coach young athletes.

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