

January 2011



Bluegrass Sportsman Trails

Division Presidents for 2010 –2011

Trap	Air Gun	Rifle
Charlie Becknell 859-508-5152 cab4trap@insightbb.com	Robert Frederick 859-527-7663 No Email	Mike Niblett 859-321-5215 nibs12@windstream.net

Skeet and Sporting Clays	Bass	Gun Dog
Fred Foster 859-271-3445 ffoster@windstream.net	Mike Kass 859-887-1742 Bass@bgslinc.com	Todd Johnson 859-265-7813 legacysportdogs@aol.com

Pistol	Casting	Youth
Tom Tryon 859-621-8118 t.tryon@insightbb.com	Dennis Dixon 859-873-3853 advdup@aol.com	Lu Ann Johnson 502-598-1533 luann@automatemybooks.com

Archery	Muzzle Loaders
Joel McClintock 859-221-5323 jmcclin@email.uky.edu	Jackie Sams 859-509-5996 jnhsams@insightbb.com

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League Officers:

President Rob Mulcahy.....859-421-5408	President@bgslinc.com
Secretary Mike Kass..... 859-887-1742	Secretary@bgslinc.com
Treasurer Dan Fister 859-948-3543	Treasurer@bgslinc.com

Morgan's Meanderings By Terry C. Morgan



Ahh! Nostalgia. What a wonderful way to spend some holiday time. As one gets to a certain age, you find that you are more often allowing your mind to drift back to the “good ole days” and I find it quite rewarding for many reasons. That phrase, “good ole days” might be arguable but as time passes and events in your life take on a different perspective it quite often does seem that earlier times had a lot of good memories that were not present at the time they occurred.

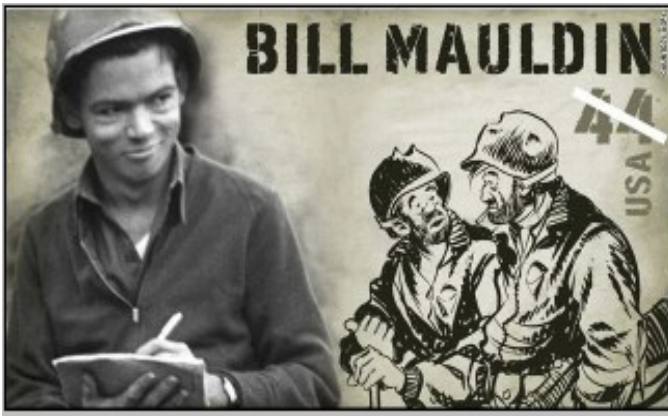
This season of Christmas is sure to bring out some nostalgia in everyone but for me, the primary trigger for this malady is the classic Christmas movie, “A Christmas Story”. Humorist Jean Shepherd has brought to us a wonderful human story about a young boy who is yearning to get a Red Ryder 200 shot Range Model Carbine BB air gun with a compass in the stock. The elementary school years of a child are probably some of the most formative years and a great many experiences are first learning experiences in that young life. I am particularly delighted with this movie because it is the most accurate resurrection of my young life that I have ever seen and it recounts so many of the events of my life in the same way they happened to me that it almost seems unnatural. I have counted up 21 things in this movie that create an immediate note of nostalgia so strong as to almost make one weep at the coincidental connections. I grew up needing glasses at an early age just as Ralphie did and being a “four-eyed” sissy was not an easy life. The broken glasses scene and the first fight scene were quite typical of what young glasses wearers had to go through. That school of his was a dead ringer for my elementary school except for one thing: our seat/desks had an ink well in them. I remember that very well because I had the privilege of going down into the dark basement to get the ink can filled by the janitor and I used it to fill all the ink wells on the desks. Another vivid memory that jumped out was the background music playing on the family radio. How many of you can remember the Hut Sut Ralson on the Rillara song? The snow suit episode was especially warm to me because my snowsuit was the same color as Ralphie’s brother’s suit and it was very difficult to put your arms down. The console radio with the bright red tuning eye was just like the one we had and we listened to Orphan Annie and The Lone Ranger among others. I had the Orphan Annie decoder ring as well. Would you believe that we had “tongues frozen to the flagpole” incidents as well? My 1940s life experiences took place in Lansing, Michigan, not all that far away from the Hammond, Indiana area that Ralphie lived in. Well, I could go on and on about this but there is a point here. The 1940s experiences that Ralphie and I shared were not only important to us as learning experiences but the period in our history when our American society came together in a very strong fashion. The movie did not bring out the fact that the 1940s were also the WWII period for our country and life was especially difficult with all the rationing and changes that took place in our society. The Oldsmobile plant, where my father worked, went from making automobiles for Ralphie’s dad to guns and munitions for tanks among other things. Peo-

Morgan's Meanderings By Terry C. Morgan (cont.)

ple walked to work because gasoline was severely rationed. Sugar, meat, butter, tires, bicycles and many other things were rationed. Ever hear of "SPAM"? One of my home jobs was blending the yellow dye pill into the white margarine so that it looked like butter. Setting aside my delight in going over this nostalgic period is the point that I see this important time in our country's history slipping away from our current memories. Such a large portion of our population was not even born until well after the war years.

There were quite a few war heroes that came out of this period of time and I want to remind folks about one of the most beloved of those. He was a very young fellow named Bill Mauldin and he became a hero of the Second World War because even though he was not a combat soldier, he spent almost all of his time right up on the front lines getting to know the G.I.s and portraying their everyday experiences with life, death, hunger, poor sanitation and all the rest of the miseries you can imagine. The folks back home always got more information from Bill's cartoons than they did from the government or the newspapers. Bill Mauldin formed an important link between the people at home and the boys at the front lines and that link made us a whole nation. As we at home worked longer hours and did without many of the things we were normally accustomed to having we felt that we were doing some things that would help our soldiers toward victory and that made us feel as if we were helping in the fight. The Victory Garden was an important part of everyday life in producing food to help feed the nation and thereby make more food available for the soldiers. As people like Bill Mauldin disappear there is less and less a flavor for what our country was and should still be. Maybe it is a good thing that we lose our memory for such things but I don't like to think so. As I look around at our divisive culture and political system today and try to relate it to my past, I have a very difficult time understanding how we got here. It just seems like we have lost the lessons we learned about tyranny and what we were fighting for in WWII; our unique American style of Freedom.

Get out your history books and open them to the chapter on World War II. Today's lesson will cover a little known but very important hero of whom very little was ever really known. Here is another important piece of lost US history, which is a true example of our American Spirit. Makes ya proud to put this stamp on your envelopes.....

Morgan's Meanderings By Terry C. Morgan (cont.)

He was not forgotten, though. Mauldin, and his work, meant so much to the millions of Americans who fought in World War II, and to those who had waited for them to come home. He was a kid cartoonist for Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper; Mauldin's drawings of his muddy, exhausted, whisker-stubbed infantrymen Willie and Joe were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines. Mauldin was an enlisted man just like the soldiers he drew for; his gripes were their gripes, his laughs their laughs, his heartaches their heartaches. He was one



"I need a couple guys what don't owe me no money fer a little routine patrol."

of look on his face remained. He had achieved so much. He won a second Pulitzer Prize, and he should have won a third for what may be the single greatest editorial cartoon in the history of the craft: his deadline rendering, on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, of the statue at the Lincoln Memorial slumped in grief, its head cradled in its hands. But he never acted as if he was better than the people he met. He was still Mauldin, the enlisted man. During the late summer of 2002, as Mauldin lay in that California nursing home, some of the old World War II infantry guys caught wind of it. They

Morgan's Meanderings By Terry C. Morgan (cont.)

didn't want Mauldin to go out that way. They thought he should know he was still their hero. Gordon Dillow, a columnist for the Orange County Register, put out the call in Southern California for people in the area to send their best wishes to Mauldin. Soon, more than 10,000 cards and letters had arrived at Mauldin's bedside. Better than that, old soldiers began to show up just to sit with Mauldin, to let him know that they were there for him, as he, so long ago, had been there for them. So many volunteered to visit Bill that there was a waiting list. Here is how Todd DePastino, in the first paragraph of his wonderful biography of Mauldin, described it: "Almost every day in the summer and fall of 2002 they came to Park Superior nursing home in Newport Beach, California, to honor Army Sergeant, Technician Third Grade, Bill Mauldin. They came bearing relics of their youth: medals, insignia, photographs, and carefully folded newspaper clippings. Some wore old garrison caps. Others arrived resplendent in uniforms over a half century old. Almost all of them wept as they filed down the corridor like pilgrims fulfilling some long-neglected obligation." One of the veterans explained to me why it was so important: "You would have to be part of a combat infantry unit to appreciate what moments of relief Bill gave us. You had to be reading a soaking wet Stars and Stripes in a water-filled foxhole and then see one of his cartoons."

Mauldin is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Last month, the kid cartoonist made it onto a first-class postage stamp. It's an honor that most generals and admirals never receive. What Mauldin would have loved most, I believe, is the sight of the two guys who keep him company on that stamp. Take a look at it. There's Willie. There's Joe. And there, to the side, drawing them and smiling that shy, quietly observant smile, is Mauldin himself. With his buddies, right where he belongs. Forever.



Trap Tips By Charlie Becknell



Chokes, Loads, and Guns #4

New shooters often come out to the range and are given a ton of information.

When starting out, it needs to be simple. Bring out your hunting gun or whatever you have as long as it is safe. Trap is mainly shot with 12 gauge shotguns but several people also use 20 gauge guns as well. There are reasons most people use 12 gauges. First, it is almost always heavier than the 20 gauge and the additional weight helps to “soak up some of the recoil”. Second, heavier guns will help to smooth out your swing. Lighter guns tend to be “whippy”. Third, it is easier to shoot the regular trap loads through a 12 gauge (1 1/8 ounces is the maximum weight that can be shot).

Once you have a gun with which you are going to shoot, let's make it comfortable. One of the problems that we see with a new shooter is that their gun does not have a recoil pad. There are several different brands on the market (such as Kick Eez) that make the recoil much more tolerable. If you are going home with bruises you will not enjoy shooting very much. Most trapshooters can easily shoot 300+ rounds in a day and will NOT have any pain whatsoever. If you like shooting, get

a recoil pad for your gun (personally, I feel the recoil pad helps more than any padded shirt or vest that is on the market). You will notice that many of the guns at the trap range have adjustable combs (the stock where you rest your cheek). This is not essential to start with (and unnecessary if your gun lines up well) but can help you be more accurate. Due to our differences in size, weight, facial features, neck length, chest configuration, etc. , adjustable combs can make your gun fit better and may help with recoil.

Next, a frequently asked question is “What choke should I use”? If you are starting with a fixed choke gun and only have one gun, don't get too worried about the choke, just shoot it. I read once that chokes are in inches and misses are in feet, which in general, is true. If your gun has choke tubes, trap is usually shot with a tighter choke. The tighter the choke, the tighter the pattern. Since trap is an “edge target” that is going away, it is an advantage to have a tighter choke. Chokes go from cylinder 0.000in to full 0.035in, measured in thousandths of an inch. For new shooters, on 16 yard targets, a modified choke or tighter, is recommended. The higher the number, the tighter the choke, the more dense the pattern.

Now that we have the gun issue at rest, we need to discuss loads. Trap is usually shot with #7 1/2 or #8 shot size (7 1/2 is the maximum legal shot size for trap). In general, this really does not make much difference. What does make a difference is the speed and weight of the shot that you shoot. Lighter loads, 1 1/8 oz. at 1145 feet per second or 1 oz. at about 1200 fps are all you need for singles (16 yard targets). For

smaller kids and women, 7/8 oz. or 1 oz. helps to acclimate them to shooting without getting pounded by recoil.

Hopefully, some of these suggestions will make your shooting more productive, more fun, and less painful. We look forward to seeing you at the trap range and we will be happy to help you improve your shooting.

If you have a question, please feel free to email me at cab4trap@insightbb.com. It may become the next topic for our “Trap Tips”.

Charlie Becknell

**Special
thanks to
South Dakota
Fish and
Game for the
Wonderful
Photo of
Charlie**

BOD Minutes Nov. 30th 2010

Minutes Of The Board of Officers and Directors Blue Grass Sportsmen's League November 30, 2010

Call to order: 7:12pm

Invocation: Tom Cottingim

Pledge: Led by B.O.D.

Roll Call: Present: Mulcahy, Kass, Bickert, Foster, Ironmonger, Foley, Tryon, Maness, Cox, Roberts, Stevens, Burgess, Johnson, Ruland, Kline, Keller, Haase, Richardson, Johnson, Niblett, Alexander, Holcomb, Sanders, Miller, Blackburn, Rohrback, Riffell, and Cottingim.

Absent: Fister, Dacci, Gaska, Bowman, Lucas, Martin, and Jarrell

A Quorum was present.

Motion by: Brandon Ironmonger 2nd by Walter

Miller to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Motion Passed.

Finical Report:

Rob Mulcahy – Presented Financial Report in Dan Fister's absence.

Motion by: Mike Foley 2nd by Walter Miller to table Financial Report until Dan Fister's presence.

Motion Passed.

Old Business:
No Old Business.

New Business:

Tim Bickert: presented Membership Drive Presentation.

Motions:

Motion #1 by: Bickert 2nd by Ruland to hire Wisner, Hemlepp & Associates to advertise and promote BGSL at the direction of the Advertising Committee as approved by the BOD.

Roll Call Vote: Yea: Kass, Bickert, Foster, Tryon, Maness, Cox, Roberts, Stevens, Burgess, L. Johnson, Ruland, Kline, Keller, Haase, Richardson, T. Johnson, Niblett, Alexander, Holcomb, Sanders, Miller,

and Blackburn.

Nay:

Ironmonger, and Foley.
Motion Passed 22 to 2.

Motion #2 by: Bickert 2nd by Ruland to spend up to \$24,000 from the dedicated Tobacco Buy-out money, this requires a roll call vote with a ¾ majority.

Roll Call Vote: Yea: Kass, Bickert, Foster, Ironmonger, Foley, Tryon, Maness, Cox, Roberts, Stevens, Burgess, L. Johnson, Ruland, Kline, Keller, Haase, Richardson, T. Johnson, Niblett, Alexander, Holcomb, Sanders, Miller, and Blackburn.

Motion Passed 24 to 0.

Motion #3 by: Richardson 2nd by L. Johnson to allow the Youth Division to host a Youth Rabbit Hunt on December 18, 2010.

Motion Passed.

Motion #4 by: L. Johnson 2nd by Burgess to allow the Archery Division to host Youth Archery at the Christian Archer's Barn on 12/16, 1/20/2011, 2/17/2011, and 3/17/2011.

Motion Passed.

Motion #5 by: Alexander 2nd by Foster to allow the Skeet Division to host the KY Challenge on 12/3/2010 thru 12/5/2010.

Motion Passed.

Motion #6 by: Foster 2nd by Alexander to allow the Skeet Division to host the Blue Grass Open on 9/30 thru 10/2/2011 with setup on 9/28 & 9/29. Lead fees do apply. Facilities requested are the Skeet and Trap Ranges for all 5 days and the Main Clubhouse on 10/1.

Motion Passed.

Mr. Ken Maness – Thanked the board for allowing him to serve on the board for the past few years, but due to his health has stepped down from this role. Mr. Ken Maness introduced his replacement for the Archery Division Mr. Rick Snider.

Tom Cottingim spoke of the positive change in direction from the last board meeting and how we needed to come together as a group to address club challenges.

Motion by: Harold Stevens 2nd by Walter Miller to adjourn.

Adjourned: 8:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Mike Kass BGSL Secretary

General Membership Minutes Dec 7 2010

**Minutes
Of
The General Membership Meeting
Bluegrass Sportsmen's League
December 7, 2010**

New Business:

Tom Cottingim reported that Ken Maness had resigned from BOD and expressed appreciation for Ken's work over the years.

Ken Maness reminded everyone that it is the time of year for giving thanks. He thanked the membership for the \$313.00 donated last month for the Nicholasville Fire Department Toy Drive. The hat was passed to collect money for the Wilmore Food Bank.

Division Reports:

Youth - Lu Ann Johnson

75 People showed up for 3rd Annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Christmas Party - All kids are bringing a donation for Hope Center.

Rabbit Hunt followed next day.

Muzzle Loader:

Archie Hillard drew for the Muzzle Loading Pistol the Division was raffling off. The winner was Marvin Debale.

Ken Maness reported that \$225.00 was collected tonight for the Wilmore Food Bank.

Motion by: John Ruland 2nd by Dan Fister to adjourn.

Adjourned: 7:42pm

Respectfully submitted by: Mike Kass BGSL Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER – 7:14pm

Pledge to Flag

Invocation by: Tom Cottingim

Roll Call: Present: Mulcahy, Kass, Fister, and Bickert.

Absent: Foster, Ironmonger, Foley, and Tryon.

A Quorum was not present.

Reading of the Minutes: Mike Kass**Finical Report:**

Dan Fister presented the Balance Sheet, and Profit & Loss Reports.

KY's Largest, Most Diverse And Finest Sportsman's Club



BLUE GRASS SPORTSMANS LEAGUE

2500 Handy's Bend Road
Wilmore, KY 40390

Phone: 859-858-4060
www.bgslinc.com

Blue Grass Sportsmen's League was formed in 1945. Since its inception members have not only participated in, but have set the standard in areas such as conservation, hunters education, competitive shooting sports, training and the list goes on.

Get involved, checkout the divisions and you will discover what a great facility we have and make friends that will last a lifetime.

Directors At-Large:

Tim Bickert 859.858.0911

Fred Foster 859.533.5622

Brandon Ironmonger 859.619.0058

Mike Foley 859.619.0763

Tom Tryon 859.621.8118

Division Directors:

Archery Mark Dacci 859-621-5339
 Ken Maness 859-885-9443

Air Gun Steve Cox 859-263-8378
 Jim Gaska 859-885-6233

Bass Walt Bowman 859-223-1572
 David Roberts 859-271-3572

Casting Robert Burgess 859-351-2061
 Luann Johnson 502-839-1775

Kitchen Harold Stevens 859-887-1121
 Thomas "Cajun" Clements 859-509-0193

Muzzle Loader Ron Kline 859-338-6021
 John Ruland 859-492-9719

Pistol Robert Keller 859-948-1462
 Chris Haase 203-948-9930

Gun Dog Steve Martin 859-227-3756
 Todd Johnson 859-265-7813

Rifle Joe Jarrell 859-361-0509
 Mike Niblett 859-887-2250

Skeet & Sporting Clays Cyrus Alexander 859-420-8421
 Mark Holcomb 859-619-8801

Trap Bruce Sanders 859-219-9414
 Walter Miller 859-537-3517

Past President Bill Blackburn 859-533-5543

BGSL Chaplain Tom Cottingim 859-533-8896

Operations Manager Ben Riffell 859-509-2394