

On Target

A quarterly publication of the St. Lucia Shooting Association.

Motto:
"Shooting Safely and Sensibly"

October to December 2002

Volume 4, Issue 1

President's Welcome

I would like to thank all the members of the Association who overwhelmingly appointed me, and my executive, to our positions for the current year.

I would like to remind all members that this is not a "new" executive, but a different, revitalized, and very focused executive, which has a firm grasp of the issues of the past, present and, most of all, the challenges of the future.

As President, I think the zeal exhibited by the executive and members since my election has reinforced my commitment to grow this association so that each and every member feels that we have something to offer. The trend in the recent past has been to ensure that, within our ranks, we have the skill and expertise to provide our members with first class training, while ensuring that St. Lucia can compete internationally in shooting disciplines. This trend, I expect to deepen and entrench, so that certified trainers and range personnel, shall be the norm and not the exception, and St Lucia must be able to carve out a name in the competitive

shooting arena. This commitment to world standards has led to the association's appointment as a recognized training body for the certification of first-time firearm owners, by the Government of St. Lucia. This is by no means a small feat, and one of the challenges we face in the coming year is to fulfill this mandate to a standard where the relevant authorities can feel justified in their faith in us.

Over the years many of you have expressed numerous reasons for your inability to attend range practice. I can assure you that the training time stipulated in the calendar of events which follows, is for persons like yourself who have hardly used your firearm, and who recognize that without training, it is more a liability than security. Of course, those of you who are more proficient in the use of firearms are catered for in the structure of the training, and will be accommodated as well. I therefore encourage all members to dedicate at least 12 sessions per year to improving your skills in defending yourself and family. This is the reason most of us bought a firearm, and it is therefore only reasonable that we ensure that we can use it. Apart

Remember

- Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
- Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use
- Always treat a gun as being loaded when handling



Charles Serieux
President



Anthony Bristol
Vice-President



Lyndon Arnold
Immediate Past
President



Gregory Jean-Baptiste
Secretary



Michael Ferdinand
Treasurer



Alloysius Scott
Public Relations
Officer



Simon Hood
Range Master



Adrian Coulson
Training Master

from that, you will be required by
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law to pass a basic proficiency test the next time you try to renew your firearm license.

The association is at present attempting to acquire a facility of which we can all be proud and comfortable in using. Of course, we cannot do this on our own, and we are exploring all avenues to achieving our goal. I cannot give more details at this time, but I hope that I can do so in a subsequent newsletter.

The teams, which were established last year, are still in place, and I am going to encourage the team captains to contact each of you, so that they can encourage you on a weekly basis to come out and shoot. We are going to try to make your training fun, by putting events in place for beginners, and we hope that you realize that each of us started the same place you are, but without the advantages you may now enjoy, so please take advantage of what we are offering.

Increase In Annual Subscriptions

At the General Assembly held in November 2002, the general body voted unanimously to increase the annual subscriptions from \$100 per year to \$150.

This request was not made lightly by the executive, and I will try to provide all members, through this article, with some guidance as to the benefits which they can derive from the additional funds raised.

One of the aims of the association is to constantly improve

both the quality of its members' shooting and the quality of the service provided to members. This means that we must cater to the varied interests of our members so that we can expand.

Pistol shooting traditionally formed the backbone of our organization, and in the past most of our resources were concentrated there. Fortunately, we have been able to tap the skills of some of our members to expand our disciplines to Shotgun and Rifle. This means that we are presently providing equipment and services to members who are interested in these areas. In fact, Shotgun interest has been so high, that the association has decided to purchase a shotgun for onward rental to our members who are interested, but who do not as yet own a shotgun, and we are seeking permission to own a rifle also.

The association organizes weekly training and practice in almost all the disciplines, offering ammunition to our members at a fraction of the commercial cost, providing NRA certified instructors and range officers to guide your training and ensure your safety and ensuring that should you take advantage of these services, not only will you realize a significant return on your subscription, but you will develop your own personal skills and confidence in your ability to carry a firearm. As an additional benefit, you will be assisting in the growth and development of the sporting aspect of the organization and acquiring the fellowship of a great group of responsible individuals.

Our new thrust to uplift the public profile of the association has led to significant interest in our association. The government's appointment of the association as the only training body to certify first time users in basic competence, is seen, not only as a sign of faith in our

technical abilities, but also as an acknowledgement of the importance of being properly trained to carry a firearm. A position which the association has strongly advocated in the past and intends to pursue in the future.

I therefore urge you the current members to support us now as we begin the process of expanding what has been a valuable service to all of us, by renewing your subscriptions promptly, and coming out to use the facilities.

Charles Serieux
President

Treasurer's Report

Fellow members the 2001 to 2002 annual Financial Report shows that the year was a very challenging one both in the area of ammunition availability and the willingness of members coming forward to pay their dues I would like to take this opportunity to again impress upon members the need for them to make every effort to pay their annual dues on time as is expected of all members and in keeping with the spirit of the association.

The St. Lucia Shooting Association is not a profit making body, it is your association and your annual dues and participation in training, organized competitions that provide the support.. Participation and timely payments of our annual dues enable the association to purchase ammunition, targets and also help with the general upkeep of our equipment and range.



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We are approaching the end of the calendar year 2002 and annual dues will be due from 1st January 2003.. To date our membership list consist of one hundred and thirteen (113) members and 17% are unfinancial. We are appealing to the unfinancial members to make every effort to regularize their membership position before the end of the year, as they may leave the association no choice but to terminate their privileges as a member. If you are in doubt about your financial position please feel free to call me at telephone number 450-3260. Looking forward to your cooperation.

Michael Ferdinand.
Fellow member and Treasurer

La Ligue de Tir— Martinique

The St. Lucia Shooting Association recently returned from Martinique where it participated in "La Ligue de Tir", shooting tournament. The teams, which comprised eight (8) shooters, a Manager, and three non-shooting members, were among four countries and six teams vying for supremacy in the International Practical Shooting Confederation Event (IPSC). This tournament which encompassed seven stages spread over three days, represents one of many of its kind held in the Caribbean, in which St. Lucia has consistently demonstrated superiority.

The competition, which was keenly contested, resulted in

one St.Lucian team capturing the second place team prize, with Anthony Bristol in third overall, Adrian Coulson in sixth, Ricardo Giraudy in seventh and Lyndon Arnold in tenth. The first place in the team event went to Martinique as well as first and second place in the individual draw.

The St.Lucia Shooting Association wishes to thank Renwick & Company through its Valrico brand of foods, and Nut Power - Cream Liqueur, for their sponsorship towards this tournament, and the team members who contributed heavily towards the cost of this trip in order to represent St. Lucia.

The Association expects that the next local tournament in December, will include more of the membership, to climax an exciting year in the sport, while our International IPSC tournament at Independence next year will attract as many as five Caribbean and South American countries and approximately 55 foreign shooters to our shores to

2002 – 2003 CALENDER

DATE	EVENT
SEPTEMBER 26, 2002	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Appointment of New Executive
November 1-3, 2002	Martinique IPSC (La Ligue De Tir De Martinique)
NOVEMBER 28, 2002	GENERAL MEETING Review progress of the Association and plan for and National Day Competitions

DECEMBER 15, 2002	NATIONAL DAY COMPETITION
FEBRUARY 6, 2003	GENERAL MEETING To review progress of the Association and plan for Independence Day Competition
FEBRUARY 21-23, 2003	INDEPENDENCE DAY COMPETITION Annual tournament involving teams from Barbados, Trinidad, Guyana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Suriname & St.Lucia
MARCH 26-28, 2003	COPA COLUMBUS IPSC LEVEL III MATCH Guatemala.
MAY 15, 2003	GENERAL MEETING Review progress of the Association and plan for Whit Monday Competition
JUNE 2-3, 2003	WHIT MONDAY COMPETITION Teams (SLSA + Police) to compete in 6 events (UK Service, UK Police, Glock 'M', IPSC, Shotgun & .22 Riffle, Fun Events)
SEPTEMBER 2003	Suriname 1 hand shooting tournament
SEPTEMBER 25, 2003	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monthly Events outside of events listed above

Training of new shooters, starts at 9:00 am every Sunday until 10:00am. More seasoned and competitive shooters will train and practise from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Depending on the competitive events on the calendar, specific practice may be scheduled for competing members in the Sunday morning seasoned shooters slot. E.g, October is practice month for the Martinique tour. November is practice month for National Day competition. January is practice month for Independence tournament. May is practice month for Whit Monday competition. August is practice month for the Suriname tournament.

In the months of March , April, and July when there are no major scheduled competitions, the association will have internal competitions on alternating week-ends in all of the various disciplines.

ST.LUCIA SHOOTING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

**New Membership
Chairperson IPP**
Gregory Jean-Baptiste

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Anthony Bristol
Charles Serieux

Sponsorship & Events
Chairperson Aloysius
Scott Michael Ferdinand
2 Association members

Training & Range Officers
Chairperson Adrian Coulson
4 Range Safety Officers

Range Equipment
Chairperson Simon Hood

Tournaments – Local
Chairperson Anthony Bristol
2 Association members

Tournaments -
International Chairperson
Lyndon Arnold

Legislation & Police
Relations
Chairperson Anthony Bristol
Charles Serieux



Got a Jam? Stoppages and a solution

There are three basic types of stoppages that can occur with semi automatic pistols. They are *failure to go into battery*, *failure to fire* and *failure to eject*. All three can be cleared with one single immediate action drill that could be the key to prevailing in an timed shooting event or saving your life in a defensive encounter.

The Stoppages

Failure to go into battery occurs when the slide of the semi automatic pistol does not return all the way forward and

the cartridge is not fully seated in the chamber.

Failure to fire occurs when the trigger is pulled, the but the cartridge does not fire after it has been struck by the firing pin. This is usually a result of a defective cartridge though it could in some circumstances result from a broken firing pin. The result is the hammer at rest with the cartridge seated in the chamber.

Failure to eject with this stoppage the fired case is extracted partially or not at all from the pistol. A stove pipe stoppage is a failure to eject where the fired case is partially protruding out of the ejection port.

The Solution: TAP, RACK, INVERT, BANG

The first part of this immediate action drill is TAP. The shooter should immediately remove his trigger finger and hit the magazine with the palm of the non shooting hand. This ensures that the magazine is properly seated.

INVERT; the shooter should then invert the pistol so that the ejection port is facing downwards. This is done to allow the stuck case to drop out when the slide is RACKED

RACK; with the pistol inverted, the shooter should rack the slide. This should clear the fired case from the chamber or ejection port, or a cartridge from the chamber. Remember, when racking the slide, pull the slide all the way back and **RELEASE IT**. Do not try to guide it back into place!

BANG; return the pistol to the firing position and continue firing.

This procedure is also known as TAP, RACK, BANG as it is taught without the INVERT step. It is my experience that inverting

does improve the chance of the case/cartridge clearing and therefore I advise that all four steps are used.

This drill should be instinctive to allow the shooter to focus on the target/threat while quickly clearing the stoppage. The key as with all other aspects of shooting is practice. Once mastered this will become instinctive and be a great asset in both competition and defensive shooting.

Anthony Bristol

NATIONAL DAY SHOOT

DATE: SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2002

VENUE: CUL DE SAC RANGE

Events

Advanced Open

- 1) IPSC A- short course (10 shots)
- 2) IPSC B- field course (20 shots)
- 3) Shotgun
- 4) Black and Yellow
- 5) Rifle
- 6) Practical Shotgun (6 shot max), Poppers: 2 big (15M), 2 small (10M), 1 clay (20M)

Beginners Open

- 1) Black & White 7 and 5M 12 shots: 7M- 6 shots in 60secs, 5M 6 shots in 30 secs.
- 2) Three plate speed shoot from 5 metres (5 shots) (Styrofoam plates)
- 3) Beginners shotgun (not sure) 10 clays all straight away

Ladies category

Entry fees

\$25.00 per member, \$20.00 per police officer, ammo provided free, \$35.00 per non member.

Trophies will awarded to the top five places in each of the shooting disciplines. Together with this, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd winning teams will receive a trophy cup and a medal for each member of the team.

Each shooting team will comprise the following: 1 Beginner, 2 Police Officers and 2 Advanced shooters from the association. Teams will picked on the morning of the event thereby making the makeup of teams the luck of the draw.

The event continues to be comradry building annual event between the St. Lucia Shooting Association and members of the law enforcement fraternity. And if the 2001 National Day Tournament was any indication, the 2002 tournament will definitely be a success.

We therefore invite all members to come out and support the efforts of the association. See next issue for highlights of the National Day Shoot.

