

# On Target



A quarterly publication of the St. Lucia Shooting Association.

Motto: "Shooting Safely and Sensibly"

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## President's Address

**A**s we embark on a new executive term the Association is faced with several opportunities and some identifiable challenges. The ground work for the opportunities was laid by the several previous executives, and achieved with the support of the members.

The opportunities for this year center on the furthering of the educational drive of the Association. In this regard our efforts will be to continue to educate our members in the use of firearms, for both sport and defense and also to focus on informing them of important safety issues and legal obligations. Our programs will not be focused only on the members but with respect to safety, particularly in the home, we will be focusing on inviting the spouses/partners of members to participate.

The profile of the association has been enhanced significantly by the firearms competence and proficiency course for all first time firearm applicants. This program which is a requirement under the Firearms Act 2003 has been very successful with some 71 persons having been taught over the past eight months of this year. The confidence of the participants and their practical ability with firearms is remarkable and the objective of teaching the "knowledge, skill and attitude necessary for the safe ownership and use of a firearm" is being achieved. The applicants are able to hit the ground running with a greater interest in the sport and keen to develop their skills making them very valuable as members of the Association.

Training programs will also be held in shotgun



Anthony Bristol  
President



Lyndon Arnold  
Vice-President  
Sport Shooting



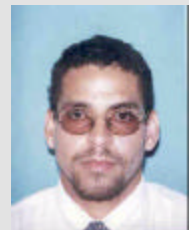
Charles Serieux  
Vice-President  
Training



John Joseph  
Secretary



Michael Ferdinand  
Treasurer



Richard Julien  
Public Relations  
Officer

shooting and advanced personal protection in the home. These areas will be of interest to sporting members and also to those who want to become more competent in their defensive

## 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

use of a pistol. Range officer programs will be run as well, in order to facilitate the use of more than one shooting bay and to assist in the hosting of the ever growing Independence tournament.

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Importantly the quality of our programs and the competence of our four qualified instructors has come in the main from affiliation with the National Rifle Association of America. This effort which was led by Gregory "Speck" Jean Baptiste has set a very high standard for our teaching and safety standards and introduced us to a wide cross section of courses and training methods. This is translating into better competitive shooting as well, and therefore furthering several of the objectives of the association.

On October 18, 2003 we signed a ten year lease for 3 acres of land situated near Odsan in the Cul De Sac Valley. This move is timely as we have outgrown our present home and need additional shooting bays for different disciplines and skill levels. In designing and costing the new facility it has become clear that we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Simon Hood for his effort in building the range and to CO Williams and Reyneau Gadjadha for the use of their heavy equipment to build and maintain the facility, a contribution worth several thousand dollars.

The new facility will have a total of four bays when completed, one of which will be for rifle shooting. There will be a club house which though initially small, will be adequate for some lectures and alternatively for an after shoot lime. There will be significant expense in getting the range up and running, and initially we may have to start with two or three bays based on the sponsorship and assistance we can get. Help from members in any way possible will be appreciated and I look forward to seeing many of you step forward to contribute skills, labour, equipment or ideas. This is our dream and we have to work to make it happen.

The biggest challenge we have is to get more members participating in association events and to raise our competitive standards. Thus far Lyndon has arranged IPSC shoots on

Sundays and is running a ranking program, both of which have significantly raised interest in that sport. At the same time we are scheduling target shoots for Sunday mornings and will also be running a ladder to monitor progress. A special time of 8:30-10:00 has been designated for beginners and it is hoped that they will come out to get the guidance and assistance they need. Do come out, there is loads to learn and it will be fun as well!

There will be a rocker system introduced that will be based on a range of drills from 15 feet to 25 yards. Initially these rockers or badges will be in pistol events but it is anticipated that rockers will also be awarded for achievements in shotgun, and when developed, rifle events. The first rocker which I invite every beginner to attain is the 15 foot, 10 shots in a 8" paper plate, which has to be done ten times. For the advanced shooters there is the Black and Yellow rocker, which requires a score of not less than 80 five times at the Sunday shoots.

With our several objectives we need support. That starts with payment of annual subscriptions. The association cannot run on good intentions alone and members who have not paid their subs as yet will be called upon to do so. Attendance at the range, at meetings and at competitions, even to assist and support go a long way to adding value to your membership.

The executive is honoured that you have entrusted the management of the association to us this year. We look forward to working and shooting with all of you and to making significant strides in increasing the value of the association to the members and the community.



## SLSA farewell to Brian Bernard

It was with much surprise that I heard of the passing of Brian Bernard on the 28<sup>th</sup> September. I had known Mr. Bernard for many years, particularly in the early 90's when I would meet him with his beloved wife Emma at M&C functions.



Mr. Bernard, or Brother B as he was affectionately known was an officer and a gentleman. He was at all times courteous and professional, and most importantly calm, certainly on the outside. During his first 30 year stint at the force he was ACP operations and was known for keeping a close eye on his men and bringing the best out of them.

Police folklore has it that once a constable was driving north when he got a call on his radio. He answered, and when asked his location he informed ACP Bernard that he was driving to his station in the center of the island. Mr. Bernard then inquired if he was feeling well and what was the traffic like. The truant constable found this a bit odd, and then in checking the traffic looked into his rear view mirror to find Mr. Bernard on his tail, radio in hand.

In all dealings with the association as Commissioner, Mr. Bernard was helpful. No reasonable request was made of him that was not granted and where there was delay he would openly express his concerns and seek further clarification. In almost all circumstances once his concerns were addressed, he would return to his jovial yet always polite self.

As a country we have lost one of our sons who enjoyed giving his all in the service of his people. As an association we have lost a supporter, someone who always did his best to assist and supported us in any way he felt necessary. As a person I feel the loss of someone who I knew well, someone who on many occasions I have had the pleasure of friendly conversation on a range of issues,

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personal, professional and societal, in a number of varied settings from Cocktails to most recently a sidewalk bar in Vieux Fort when he was taking his wife and in-laws for a drive.

On behalf of the Executive and Members of the St. Lucia Shooting Association I extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Bernard, the family and friends of our departed brother. May his soul rest in peace.



### Gregory Jean-Baptiste Qualifies as NRA Training Counsellor

The Saint Lucia Shooting Association announces its recent addition to the list of NRA Certified Trainers.

Following a Training Counsellors' Workshop in Connecticut, during the first week in October 2003, Gregory Jean-Baptiste of the Saint Lucia Shooting Association was appointed as an NRA Training Counsellor and Chief Range Safety Officer by the Director of the NRA Recreational Shooting, Training and Range Division.



Gregory conducting a Shotgun Instructors' Class

Gregory, who is the first NRA Training Counsellor in a non-American Caribbean Island, joins the world total of 8,977 NRA Training Counsellors. Together with two of his colleagues in Puerto Rico and one in St. Croix, he brings to four the total number of NRA Training Counsellors in the entire Carib-

bean.

### NRA Training Counsellor (TC)

An NRA Training Counsellor is an NRA member and an experienced, competent and active NRA Certified Instructor, in all of the NRA shooting disciplines, who has been selected for special training and upon completion, appointed by the Director of the NRA Recreational Shooting, Training and Ranges Division to train new NRA Certified Instructors.

NRA Training Counsellors retain their NRA instructor certification, and continue to teach NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses, training counsellors exercise an important leadership role in establishing NRA training programs on the local level.

In addition, training counsellors are mentors to the instructors they train; organizers of training activities; promoters of gun safety training; administrators of the details associated with NRA programs; and valuable resources to communities interested in safe, responsible firearm ownership.

As the title indicates, NRA Training Counsellors are trainers who teach instructional and organizational skills in the NRA Instructor Training Program, as well as counsellors who are available to offer guidance, leadership and direction to individuals interested in conducting successful NRA training courses.

### Chief Range Safety Officer (CRSO)

The Chief Range Safety Officer (CRSO) has overall responsibility for the safe handling and shooting of firearms anywhere on the range property.

The CSRO trains, coordinates and supervises RSOs. The CSRO also develops range Standing Order Procedures (SOPs) as directed by the range owners. The CSRO is responsible for the implementation of the SOPs. A CSRO is usually in charge of a range complex or more than one range.

Gregory Jean-Baptiste is now authorized to train instructors, as well as conduct shooter training in the following disciplines:

- NRA BASIC PISTOL SHOOTING COURSE
- NRA BASIC RIFLE SHOOTING COURSE
- NRA BASIC SHOTGUN SHOOTING COURSE
- NRA HOME FIREARM SAFETY COURSE
- NRA BASIC PERSONAL PROTECTION IN THE HOME COURSE
- NRA BASIC METALLIC CARTRIDGE RELOADING COURSE
- NRA BASIC SHOTGUN SHELL RELOADING COURSE
- NRA BASIC RANGE SAFETY OFFICER COURSE

The Executive and general membership wish him every success in his training endeavours.



### TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members

This occasion presents an opportunity for me to thank you for your confidence in me by appointing me to the position of Treasurer for the fourth time. With this confidence in me, it is my duty to implore you members to pay your annual membership fees on time. Let me also take this opportunity to inform you members who may not be aware of the increase in the membership fees from \$100.00 to \$150.00 and to remind you that the annual fees are due in the first month of the year.

As members, it is our responsibility to ensure the financial viability of our

organization. This will ensure our participation and hosting of our events and activities, maintenance of our equipment and range facilities and to purchase ammunition for our use.

It is of utmost importance that you participate fully in all activities organized by our Association and that you ensuring that you have access to all information about our Association. Your involvement and participation applies not only to shooting activities but also to non shooting activities.

However, in order to ensure that activities are conducted in a timely manner, resources, more specifically financial resources, must be available. These resources can only come from you members.

Looking forward to your active participation in all events and activities and continue to uphold the constitution of the Association.

Should you have any questions or queries on your annual fees or queries of a financial nature, feel free to contact me at:

Telephone # 450 3260  
 Fax # - 450 3407  
 E-mail [mferdinand@hotmail.com](mailto:mferdinand@hotmail.com)

Michael Ferdinand  
 Treasurer



### Competitive Shooters Rankings

**I**n an effort at further developing the competitiveness of the sport shooters within the Association, a ranking system has been introduced for the various pistol events that members engage in competitively both at home and across the region.

From its introduction, this ranking system has generated much excitement and members look forward to participating in the shoots on a Sunday morning with a view to improving their standings or maintaining their positions at the top of the table.

The program has been in place now for the past five Sundays and the following are the current rankings:

#### IPSC

Pos	Name	Point
1	Charles Serieux	465
2	Lyndon Arnold	378
3	Teresa Jean-Baptiste	342
4	Lucius Dwight Desir	298
5	Lester Arnold	284
6	John Joseph	224
7	Richard Julien	211
8	Gregory Jean-Baptiste	193
9	Ian Louis	183
10	Ricardo Giraudy	179
11	Tricia Hughes	146
12	Johnny Neptire	94
13	Michael Ferdinand	71
14	Anthony Bristol	66
15	Gordon Charles	63
16	Pinkley Francis	57
17	Brian Charles	51
18	Simon Hood	36
19	Anthony Atkinson	28
20	Clement Prospere	19
21	Errol Gustave	9

The standings of some members such as Anthony Bristol , Ricardo Giraudy and Gordon Charles does not truly reflect their skill levels due to the fact that they did not shoot every Sunday from the start of the program. However, members will be given a chance at improving their standings by reshooting the ten IPSC courses which have been held to date.

Equally as interesting are the pistol accuracy drills and whilst members are slow at making an impressive mark, the results are however encouraging and will improve over time.

The rankings for the 30-round UK Police Pistol (Black & White) and 24-round UK Service Pistol (Black & Yellow) are as

follows:

#### UK Police Pistol (Black & White)

Ps	Name	Point
1	Teresa Jean-Baptiste	520
2	Charles Serieux	493
3	Anthony Bristol	483
4	Tricia Hughes	412
5	Gregory Jean-Baptiste	263
6	Ricardo Giraudy	237
7	John Joseph	226
8	Ian Louis	198
9	Lyndon Arnold	180
10	Lucius Dwight Desir	176
11	Richard Julien	126
12	Pinkley Francis	116

#### UK Service Pistol (Black & Yellow)

Ps	Name	Point
1	Teresa Jean-Baptiste	167
2	Charles Serieux	159
3	Anthony Bristol	141
4	Tricia Hughes	114
5	Gregory Jean-Baptiste	82
6	Ricardo Giraudy	68
6	John Joseph	68
8	Lucius Dwight Desir	57
9	Richard Julien	54
10	Pinkley Francis	45
11	Lyndon Arnold	43
11	Johnny Neptire	43
13	Ian Louis	36

Well done to all the participants and remember you can only improve your ranking by your regular participation in the exercises on a Sunday Morning. The target drills start around 9:30 am and the IPSc drills start at 11:00 am. Looking forward to seeing those of you whose name are not on the ranking as yet.