

Some people shoot trap for fun. Shooting at the local gun club with friends on a Saturday afternoon can be quite enjoyable, only endeavoring to top your buddy's score that day and having lunch with friends. And then there are the driven, those who set goals for themselves within the sport.

This article is about the latter.

Trapshooting in its purest form is You against the target. Shutting out all external distractions trying to obtain the perfectly smoked target. The great trapshooter Kay Ohye often said "Easy to say, hard to do." Truer words have never been spoken. But for those who are driven to seek out their limits trapshooting provides plenty.

There are several goals the trapshooter can shoot for:

1. Breaking your first 25, 50, 75, 100, 200
2. Making the WV State Team
3. Winning a WV State Championship
4. AA 27 AA
5. AAA 27 AAA
6. Making the ATA All American Team
7. The Grand Slam

Breaking your first 25, etc.

Running the trap is usually the first step its common place to the experienced shooter, but not in the beginning. It's just breaking the target. When I started in the late 80's you just picked up a gun and loaded a shell and with a little instruction from more experienced shooters that's all there was to it. That's the hard way. Yes, it's just look at the target and shoot, seems easy. It's not for most people especially analytical types. I'm convinced after some 35 or so years of trapshooting it's how well you hold the gun but in fact it's several things that have to be done, my biggest flaw was/is holding the gun. Professional instruction can hurry the process along.

Some shooters have early success in breaking targets, nothing more satisfying than your first twenty five straight because usually it happens when you have your favorite hat on and the other four people on the squad celebrate by shooting it. You remove it first, of course! Then the fight is on to break the next trap, then the next and the next. Shooters tell you if you can run 25 you can run 50, 75, 100, 200. You'll break the last 50 of one hundred and the first 50 of the next hundred, but it's not a hundred straight, at least not in the eyes of the record books. Don't think, trapshooting is a reaction sport not a thinking sport, it's as if when you think it takes away from you being able to focus. You can think and see but you can't focus. To break the hundred or two hundred you have to focus, not think.

Making the WV State Team is the next step: The WV State Team is comprised of the top 26 shooters in the state. It is figured by adding each disciplines average and dividing by 3 for an overall average. The highest average (regardless of category) is the captain of the first team after that categories kick in, the highest average in a category is placed on the first team second highest on the second team. The remainder fills in the nine remaining spots on the team by highest average regardless of category. There are requirements to shoot a minimum number of targets:

Minimum qualifications: (amended 2009)

- (A) Men 1000 16 yard targets
- 1000 Handicap
- 800 Doubles

(B) Lady 800 16 yard targets
Veteran 800 Handicap
Sr. Vet 500 Doubles
Junior
Sub Junior

(C) Shooters are required to shoot the 400 CHAMPIONSHIP TARGETS at the State Shoot to qualify for the State Team (Amendment July 1997)

Next Goal Winning a WV State Championship:

There are five WV State Championships, WV Singles Championship, WV Handicap Championship, WV Doubles Championship, WV High All Around and WV High Over All.

Usually your first will be the **High Over All**. Comprised of the all the week's events (sometimes the first day or two is not included, check the program. WV it's the 1300 total targets) you needn't win an event, just have the highest total in the end. The **High All Around** is the same except it's based only on the 400 championship targets. Though half the time it's won by someone who won one of the championships that year. Next will generally be the **Handicap Championship**. This is an event that can be won from any yardage and if the event is shot in inclement weather can go to short yardage shooters, though in the last forty years it has been won by 25 yard or longer shooters half the time. Then the last two Championships are a toss up as which one will come next Doubles or Singles. More shooters needed the Doubles leg than any other one.

The Roundhouse is winning all five. Below is a list of those who have accomplished the Roundhouse, the year completed and the last leg needed:

L. LaFollette 1948 Handicap
ED McDonald 1948 Doubles
Ira Eycler 1961 Doubles & Handicap
Bill Young 1965 Doubles
Darrell Dowler 1975 Handicap
Darrel Murray 1995 Doubles
Fred Dague 2009 Doubles
Robert Harden 2021 Singles

AA 27 AA has been awarded for many years to ATA shooters qualifications are:

16-yard Singles - 97% and over
Doubles - 93% and over
End the target year on the 27 yard line

For those shooters who meet the requirements for multiple target years; only the first target year will be recognized for this particular award.

Target Requirements (as of the 2013 target year):
MEN & SUB-VETERAN
3,000 SINGLES, 2,000 HANDICAP and 1,000 DOUBLES

LADY I, JUNIOR & JUNIOR GOLD
2,500 SINGLES, 1,500 HANDICAP and 750 DOUBLES

LADY II, SUB-JUNIOR, VETERAN, SENIOR VETERAN
2,000 SINGLES, 1,000 HANDICAP and 500 DOUBLES

2017 CAMERON BAILEY – WV
2009 D MARK ISNER – WV
2008 ROBERT HARDEN – WV
2004 FRED DAGUE – WV
1998 DARRELL DOWLER – WV
1996 RICHARD MURRAY – WV
1992 ROBERT LOWE – WV
1990 DARREL MURRAY – WV
1987 JOHN GARRISON – WV

AAA 27 AAA

The start of the 2000 target year, marked the introduction of the AAA six class classification system to the official ATA rulebook. AAA classification is as follows:

16-yard Singles - 98% and over
 Doubles – 96% and over

For those shooters who meet the requirements for multiple target years; only the first target year will be recognized for this particular award.

Target Requirements:

MEN & SUB-VETERAN
 3,000 SINGLES, 2,000 HANDICAP and 1,000 DOUBLES

LADY I, JUNIOR & JUNIOR GOLD
 2,500 SINGLES, 1,500 HANDICAP and 750 DOUBLES

LADY II, SUB-JUNIOR, VETERAN, SENIOR VETERAN
 2,000 SINGLES, 1,000 HANDICAP and 500 DOUBLES

Below are the members that have earned the AAA27AAA status dating back to the 2002 target year.

2018 CAMERON BAILEY – WV

Making the ATA All American Team

Probably for most shooters the second hardest feat to obtain, making the ATA All American team is the highlight of their shooting career. Second in my opinion only to the Grand Slam. However, the requirements are greater. Minimum targets:

Targets	Singles	Handicap	Doubles
Men, Sub-Veteran	3,000	2,500	1,500
Lady I & II, Jr, Jr-Gold, Veteran	3,000	2,000	1,000
Sub-Junior, Senior Veteran	2,000	1,000	500

Shooters must have competed in the Championship events (High All Around) at qualifying tournaments in a minimum of three different States/Provinces.

Shooters earn points by having one of the three top scores in their category (Open, Lady I, Lady 2, Sub Junior, Junior, Junior Gold, Sub Veteran, Veteran, Senior Veteran or Chair) at qualifying tournaments.

Complete requirements: [Click here](#) It's also printed in Trap&Field each year typically in the May edition.

The following teams and number of members are offered for achievement recognition.

Open 1st Team – 12	Junior Gold 1st – 10
Open 2nd Team – 20	Junior Gold 2nd – 15
Lady I and Lady II 1st – 10	Sub Veteran 1st - 12
Lady I and Lady II 2nd – 15	Sub Veteran 2nd - 20
Sub-Junior 1st – 10	Senior Veteran 1st - 12
Sub-Junior 2nd – 15	Senior Veteran 2nd - 20
Junior 1st – 10	Veteran 1st - 12
Junior 2nd – 15	Veteran 2nd - 20
Chair Shooter - 7	

WV shooters that have made the All American Team

1934	SANDERS	BUNNY	Women's First Team
1962	EYLER	IRA	Men's First Team
1962	EYLER JR	IRA	Junior First Team
1963	EYLER JR	IRA	Junior First Team
1969	EYLER JR	IRA	Men's Honorable Mention
1975	TALKINGTON	PERCY	Sub-Junior Team
1976	TALKINGTON	PERCY	Junior First Team
1977	TALKINGTON	PERCY	Junior First Team
1992	MURRAY	BRIEN	Sub-Junior Team
1993	AFTANAS	MICHAEL	Sub-Junior Team
1995	REED	ROBERT	Veteran Team
1998	REED	ROBERT	Senior Veteran Team
2000	REED	ROBERT	Senior Veteran Team
2005	SHARRER	GALLIGHER CASSIE	Women's Second Team
2005	YOUNG	WILLIAM	Senior Veteran Second Team
2006	SHARRER	GALLIGHER CASSIE	Women's First Team
2014	SAUBLE	ALEC	Junior Gold Second Team (27)
2015	Damron	Douglas	Veteran Second Team (30)
2016	SAUBLE	ALEC	Junior Gold Second Team (20)
2017	Damron	Douglas	Veteran Second Team (26)
2018	Bailey	Cameron	Open Second Team (24)
2019	Bailey	Cameron	Open Second Team (14)
2019	Dague	Fred	Subvet Second Team (23)
2019	Spencer	Sandra	Lady II Second Team (19)
2020	Spencer	Sandra	Lady II Second Team (24)
2021	Isner	Mark	SubVet First Team (11)

2022	Isner	Mark	SubVet Second Team (31)
2022	Dague	Fred	Veteran Second Team (31)
2022	Damron	Douglas	Sr. Veteran Second Team (14)
2023	Isner	Mark	SubVet Second Team (13)
2023	Ferris	Ethan	SubJr Second Team (17)
2024	Ferris	Ethan	SubJr First Team (9)
2024	Isner	Mark	SubVet First Team (11)
2024	Murray	Darrel	Sr. Veteran Second Team (30)
2024	Harden	Robert	Veteran Second Team (13)

The “Grand Slam”

The “Grand Slam” consists of breaking the two hundred straight in a two hundred bird singles race, the hundred from the 27 yard line and 100 in doubles.

To date only 526 shooters, worldwide, have completed their ATA Grand Slams.

Below is a list of the only WV shooters to accomplish this feat, the year, the last discipline needed and the numerical order.

- 2007 FRED DAGUE – WV handicap 366**
- 1999 JOHN GARRISON – WV singles 236**