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with being a squad leader, but many shooters have expressed a concern for keeping track of the actual number of shots fired from post to post? You can dispel this fear very simply by keeping your shells in their box and put the entire box in your pocket. Then you can easily keep count with your fingers (5 shells to a row/post) as you move through the event. Overall, with a little practice and experience, being a squad leader really isn't difficult or intimidating at all.

Third Point: When we talk about proper shooter *conduct*, words like etiquette, courtesy, manners, and respect, become a big part of the discussion. First of all, every shooter should always embrace the

principles and practices of proper shooter conduct and decorum... both on and off the range. From my experience, here are just a few simple courtesies you should try to remember: While carrying your gun always keep the action open, unloaded, and the muzzle pointed toward the ground. If you like to carry your shotgun over your shoulder, carry it with the muzzle forward and pointed downward, this keeps your barrel out of the faces of those behind you. Have your guns and gear organized and ready to go before you arrive at the shoot. Once you've registered, get yourself and your gear ready to move-out promptly to your designated trap or field when the time comes.

Pay attention to the On-Deck board, and be at your starting trap or field with plenty of time to spare. Waiting on an absent squad member is very frustrating for all concerned. Don't crowd the squad ahead of you. Let them clear the trap or field before you take over. When your squad does move out onto the field, be sure to check the score sheet to confirm your name, class, and/or yardage is properly listed. If it's not, make certain to get it added or corrected right then before anyone starts shooting. If you're shooting a handicap event, don't hesitate to step forward and help prepare the field for your squad's positions on the web. Listen closely for your score at each post, and never

take a shot from your next post until you've heard your score announced! If there's any question at all, it needs to be resolved before you take that first shot from the new post. Think of it this way, once you've moved to a new post and taken that first shot, you're accepting the scores given for your previous post... right or wrong.

For safety reasons, while on the field and from post to post, the rule books are quite specific on proper gun loading, unloading, and handling. What they fail to address is the proper conduct each shooter should display while on the web and while moving through an event. I've been clay target shooting for many years now, and I've observed a wide variety of shooter performance. At this point, I can only convey to you what I believe is proper and acceptable shooter conduct: Above all, know the rules of the game you're engaged in, and always think safety first! As your squad moves onto the field, get to your post, set your foot position, focus your eyes down range, and don't be distracting. *Now* is the time for you to concentrate and get your mind focused and into the game! Pay attention to your squad leader, be alert and watching for the "view target" when called for, and then relax, breathe... and prepare yourself mentally for your turn to shoot.

Well... these are just the basics of shooter responsibilities, duties, and conduct. Hopefully, this sheds some light on the subject, or at least generates some good healthy discussion. If and when the need should ever arise, the roles, responsibilities, duties, and proper shooter conduct, can be politely expressed, easily taught, and is always appreciated. Remember, excitement and frustration go hand-in-hand when it comes to clay target shooting and a modest level of bragging and whining is acceptable. However, any loud outbursts, ranting, foul or abusive language, tirades, and temper tantrums should never be tolerated. A true champion takes everything in stride, and will always maintain the proper decorum with the utmost in dignity, courtesy, humility, and respect... win or lose! So, as you work hard challenging yourself to be the best possible shooter you can be, put a little extra effort in being the best person you can be as well. Believe me, when all is said and done... it'll pay much bigger dividends!

As the event starts, keep your eyes down range, remain quiet, and don't move anything until the shooter before you has completed his shot. Then, and only

then, do you start through your five second routine for breaking your target. Once you've taken your shot and dismantled and opened your gun, remain quiet... showing courtesy and respect to the following shooter to your right. Once that shooter has fired at his target, then you can quietly, and without distraction, prepare yourself and your gun for your next shot. Remember, each time when it's your turn to shoot, stay focused and within your own rhythm and timing for each shot. Don't be a slow poke and disrupt any good squad rhythm, but don't let yourself be hurried either. Stay with this simple routine for every shot, on every post, as your squad moves through each event. Don't forget... you can and should expect this same courtesy and respect from every other shooter on your squad.

As the event starts, keep your eyes down range, remain quiet, and don't move anything until the shooter before you has completed his shot. Then, and only

If you have a specific question, send me an email at clay-brakn@msn.com and I'll do my best to get it answered. Please keep your questions brief and to the point.

See you at the club... Frank

Five Ways To Become A Better Shot From Brays Island Plantation

Shooting tips include:

- 1) Pack a shooting bag. Essentials include a towel, bug spray, sunscreen, hat, and even a snack to keep the blood sugar up during your round. Don't be afraid to leave the scorecard out and just work on a few troubling targets when out shooting with friends.
- 2) Develop a solid pre-shot routine. Practice a ritual every time you shoot, not just when keeping score or during a registered shoot. Consistency before you say "pull" will lead to greater consistency after you say "pull".
- 3) Two colors of shooting glasses can help increase your score. With some stations at Brays Island in open fields and others in hardwood bottoms, light changes drastically. To see all presentations, have a darker colored lens or sunglasses for the real bright stations and a light rose, purple or yellow pair for the ones with lots of shadows.
- 4) Change your chokes. When shooting, ensure you have the right equipment to be successful on the challenging targets at distance. While not all shooters change chokes frequently, it can help your results at end of the day.
- 5) BREATHE - this is one of our most frequently used phrases during



Shooter Training at Brays Island Plantation

a lesson because shooters usually improve their scores by simply taking a deep breath, relaxing and having fun.

About the Brays Island Plantation Gun Club Originally designed by renowned gun-maker Holland &

Holland, the Brays Island Gun Club offers shooters an array of challenges amid a stunning Lowcountry backdrop. The grounds feature more than 60 traps, 15 station sporting clay course along with a five stand, skeet, trap, rifle, pistol and archery ranges. Providing a welcoming atmosphere for shooters of all abilities, The Gun Club also serves as one of the social hubs of Brays Island with a robust calendar of events and friendly competitions. For more information, visit www.braysislandplantation.com.

JAMES D. JULIA Inc. Consignments Wanted

Important October Firearms Auctions In Fairfield, Maine Gross Over \$18 Million

Every year in October, two separate firearms auction companies (James D. Julia, Inc. & Poulin Auctions) conduct firearm auctions back to back in Fairfield, Maine. Each time these auctions occur, the results generate the largest offering and largest sales gross for a firearms auction anywhere in the world. This year the Julia auction generated approx. \$15 Million in sales and combined with \$3.4 Million produced at the Poulin auction pushed the entire gross to a little over \$18 Million. 372 items generated \$10,000 or better, 33 items realized over \$50,000, and 8 items generated over \$100,000. James D. Julia, Inc. is now accepting individual consignments and entire estate collections for our March 2017 sale. This will be another spectacular sale of rare and historic arms. James D. Julia, Inc. is the leading auction house in the world for rare, high-end and expensive guns. In addition, the special 0% seller's commission on high-end, expensive guns is the best published rate in the industry. Why not consider the best auction house in the world, offering the lowest terms in the world, to sell your quality goods for some of the best prices in the world. Also, Julia's new Sporting and Collector session now offers the finest venue in the world for middle-market or moderately priced firearms. Call today to learn more about how James D. Julia, Inc. can and will best serve you.

Below is a sampling of the successes for our consignors in our October Sale

<p>Annie Oakley's 12 ga Wm. Cashmore Boodock Ejector Game Gun (est. \$125,000-175,000)</p> <p>Sold for \$207,000</p>	<p>Massive Four Bore Holland & Holland Hammer Double Rifle (est. \$45,000-\$75,000)</p> <p>Sold for \$103,500</p>	<p>Small Bore Fabbri Pinless Sidelock O/U Shotgun w/Quail Scene Eng. (est. \$40,000-60,000)</p> <p>Sold for \$109,250</p>
<p>Now Accepting Consignments For Our Important March 2017 Firearms Auction</p> <p>Contact Us Today Whether You Have One Fine Item or An Entire Collection</p> <p>Remember: Seller's Commission Rates on High Value Items as low as... 0%</p>		
<p>Rare 8 Bore Parker "B" Grade Top Lever Hammer Gun</p> <p>Sold for \$69,000</p>	<p>Piotti "Boss" 20 ga O/U Shotgun Eng. by Terzi (est. \$35,000-55,000) (Moore Coll.)</p> <p>Sold for \$69,000</p>	<p>Lefever AA Grade Shotgun (est. \$30,000-\$50,000)</p> <p>Sold for \$51,750</p>
<p>Very Fine Holland & Holland 8 Bore Hammer Double Paradox (est. \$15,000-\$25,000)</p> <p>Sold for \$75,750</p>	<p>Fine Parker GHE 28 ga Shotgun (est. \$15,000-\$25,000)</p> <p>Sold for \$27,600</p>	

Email: firearms@jamesdjulia.com | Tel: + 1 207 453-7125 | Fax: (207) 453-2502
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