



Gordon Ross took aim with his Silver Seitz single barrel trap gun. He competes year-round in trap shooting contests, including the Grand National.  
— Photo by Casey McCormick/Saint Francis Herald.

# Not all hunting involves live targets

By Casey McCormick

*The Saint Francis Herald*  
scmccormick@nwkansas.com

Not all hunting activities involve a live target. Trap shooting provides the excitement of firing a weapon with the only damage to a clay pigeon

One of the many trap shooting enthusiasts in this area, Gordon Ross of St. Francis, has developed his hobby into a fine art.

"I did trap shooting years ago and got started again in 2000," said Ross.

A life member of the Kansas Trapshooting Association and the Amateur Trap Shooting Association, he competes in events both here and nationally.

Ross said he shoots with several area trap clubs. He is a member of the five-man-team of Red Willow Aviation out of McCook, Neb.

"Our team has placed first at the McCook Gun Club the last three years," he said.

In the individual class, he also took top honors, breaking 392 of the 400 clay pigeons he shot at this year's spring event.

Some of the other clubs in the area that Ross competes in are Rawlins County, Oberlin, Colby and Goodland. They usually meet one night or one day a month.

"There is quite a bit of shooting during the

year in this area," said Ross.

For trap shooters, every state offers a yearly shoot. These help participants qualify for the nationals. Each year, the Grand American World Trap Shooting Championship is held in Sparta, Ill.

Ross said he has been to the "Grand" every year since 2001. The competition lasts 10 days and attracts the best shooters from the country.

"There are 100 traps going along a three-mile stretch," said Ross, "It's an amazing sight."

He said the excitement of individual competition is what drives him.

"You compete for yourself against guys from all over the states," said Ross, "and it's within you to do it."

The sport requires concentration and good hand-to-eye coordination, he said, but it is more than the shooting that makes this a popular pastime.

"I meet a lot of people, make good friends from all over the country," said Ross.

If you're interested in trap shooting, he said, contact a local club. Membership to the Amateur Trap Shooting Association is affordable, about \$12 to \$14 per year, Ross said. 4-H has a trap shooting program for young people.

"It's a good sport," said Ross.

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