

The Second Time is a Charm!

By: Roy Jorgensen

On the first beautiful fall day here in Alabama Frank Proietty of Anniston, AL went out to the skeet field to make history AGAIN! Shooting at the Fall Burner Open, hosted by the Madison County Shooting Sports Association (MCSSA) in New Market, AL, on 24 September; Frank reached a goal that many of us never think possible! On station one, fourth box, during the doubles event he shot at the 150,000th target of his long shooting career. And he broke the pair decisively! Later he commented that “he knew if he missed, he’d never live it down”! He’s right about that!



Frank began his shooting career after his return from his service with the US Army in the Korean conflict in 1953. His early days of shooting were interrupted by the normal aggravations of life faced by all young men (school; marriage; family; and career), all of which delayed his first major milestone (50,000 targets) until 1975! Unfortunately, soon after his having achieved that mark, a double tragedy occurred! The NSSA attempted to collate all shoot records at their then location in Dallas, TX; unfortunately during this effort they lost (or never received) many of the records which they had requested from the various State and Zone associations, who up till that time were responsible for maintaining the documents. When resolution to the missing numbers was sought Frank was reportedly told “he was responsible for supplying the missing data”; and now the second tragedy intervenes, Franks’ home had burnt down and he had lost all his firearms (and shoot records)! The long journey began again!

In anticipation of this momentous accomplishment, MCSSA presented Frank with a cake during the lunch break, which he graciously shared with all who attended the shoot. Shown presenting the cake is Mr. Bill Zupko, MCSSA Skeet Manager, and Alabama Chief Referee.





Shown below are Frank's squad during this milestone event!



Left to Right:

Bill McFerrin

“Tom” Cullen

Jaron Ware

Bill Zuko

After the event was complete, Frank (our 84 year young, senior veteran) stated that his next goal is to shoot 100 birds on his 100th Birthday – We hope that you do, and we all hope that we're there to celebrate with you!