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June 2023 Newsletter



Tribute to Robert (Bob) Gioia

“SUCCESS IS MOST OFTEN ACHIEVED BY THOSE WHO DON’T KNOW THAT FAILURE IS INEVITABLE”.

~ Benjamin Franklin

Welcome to the 110th California State Trapshooting Championship

To all 2023 Golden State Trap Shooting Championship shooters, their families and friends,

Please join us at our induction ceremony to the California Trapshooting Hall of Fame on Sunday, June 25th, where we will introduce you to our 2023 Hall of Fame inductees: Steve Cloyd, Lori Clodt and Ritchie Clodt.

Our inductees this year not only have long and exemplary Trap Shooting records proving their ability, they each poses the four additional traits that an athlete must have to be great: Leadership, Consistency, Longevity and the Ability to overcome adversity. In addition, each of our inductees has been a great ambassador to our sport!

Shoot well at the 110th State Championships where future Trapshooting Hall of Fame Athletes will be proving themselves and climbing the ladder to greatness.

Gary Beer

President, California Trapshooting Hall of Fame



“NEVER CONFUSE A SINGLE DEFEAT WITH A FINAL DEFEAT”

~ F. Scott Fitzgerald

GIOIA

Italian, noun/definition: gladness, glee, great delight, joy.

Robert (Bob) Gioia was always a gentleman as well as a determined businessman and dedicated competitor. Starting in his early days at Washington Irving Jr. High School in Los Angeles circa 1950, he was on the gymnastics team where he set the bar among his fellow students for physical acumen, composure, and achievement. The gymnastics team at Washington Irving included another talented young man, a ‘younger classmate’ of Bob’s, Albert (Al) Yapelli.

The next stop for Bob was Eagle Rock High School where he continued developing his gymnastics, his tumbling skills, and his strength on the parallel bars. It was during this time that he developed his drive to succeed. With his playful nature, Bob was never one to leave out some mischievous fun along the way. In high school Bob was known to engage in a little hooky from time to time. One of those times, sneaking off from his classmates, Bob biked the short distance to Griffith Park where he loved to visit. It was in Griffith Park, a wonderfully lush urban oasis where he spied on the set of *The Invasion of The Body Snatchers*. In awe of the set coordination and talented athletic actors, Bob dreamed that one day he would be in the spotlight. As he ran his fingers through his quaffed pompadour, he thought those perfectly made-up actors and their talents had nothing over him. ‘Why not?’ thought Bob, the budding innovator and businessman.

It was during his years at Eagle Rock that Bob, inspired by his father Joseph and encouraged by his mother Rosalie, applied his quick reflexes and physical skills as a young race car driver. He never missed a chance to push his competitive instincts and was a regular race winner on the podium.

“A FAILURE IS NOT ALWAYS A MISTAKE. IT MAY SIMPLY BE THE BEST ONE CAN DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE REAL MISTAKE IS TO STOP TRYING”.

~ B.F. Skinner

Bob's love of competition, his athletic prowess and drive to achieve brought him to the world of trap shooting. It was the 1960s. Along with Joseph and Rosalie in the family wagon, Bob never missed a monthly meet of the Golden Bears at Floyd Davis's International Trap and Skeet Club in the 1,500-acre Whittier Narrows Recreation area bordered by San Gabriel Boulevard to the north and Santa Anita and Merced Avenues to the south and east (known today as LA Clays). Bob was again enjoying the podium as a young trap shooter. Incidentally, the Whittier Narrows was home to the Charles Gay Lion Farm, whose lions starred in many of the Tarzan productions such as *Tarzan and His Mate* and *Son of Tarzan*, which were shot in the hills and swamps of the Whittier Narrows. In this idyllic location, Bob competed at The Golden Bears with other shooters arriving the day before in their motorhomes and campers, filling the parking lot with barbecues smoking and beer flowing. With 300+ competitors, no one dared hold an ATA event on a Golden Bears Sunday! It was on one of those Sundays that fate had its way and Bob's 'younger classmate' from high school found him setting the competitive bar once again. This time it was young Al Yapelli (California Hall of Fame inductee, 2021) on the 16-yard line standing a post away who recognized his junior high school classmate.

Bob's love of cars and automobile mechanics eventually landed him at racing pits around the country with Melling Engine Parts where he applied his competitive and innovative talents as their factory representative, traveling the country, developing the Melling Engine Parts name and growing their business.

Ever since his introduction to trap shooting at the Floyd Davis's Club, Bob loved trap shooting and all its competitive and social rewards. While watching the motor homes arrive, he dreamed of his own someday. Being ever humorous and good-natured, and always the proud Italian, he painted big letters on the side of his 'Winnadago'. While traveling the country and building the business for Melling Engine Parts, he always made time for his beloved trap shooting, which included shooting in Texas, Missouri, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada among other states. And he was always at the Grand American. He attended the Grand American for 36 years in a row in Vandalia, Ohio and lastly in Sparta, Illinois in 2006.

The California State Shoot in Kingsburg was Bob's favorite. It was at the Kingsburg shoot where he set the bar for selflessness and generosity. For 20 years Bob sponsored the targets for the state team's 200 singles competitors. Bob was a California Golden State Trapshooter's Association (CGSTA) Board Member, the Treasurer during the mid-1980s, and President in 1986. In that year, while leaving the stage after delivering his President's address, Bob tripped and lunged forward, surely to land head first onto the floor. But his Eagle Rock High School Gymnastics Team tumbling skills came into play once again. With his feet straight up in the air Bob managed to tuck and roll, completely flipping over, and came up on one foot with his other leg kneeling. Head held high and with both arms extended to the heavens in front of a thousand attendees, Bob then said in a booming voice reminiscent of the greatest stage actors, "ta dah!".

It was also at the California State Shoot grounds that Bob saw a need and an opportunity to apply his vision and talents. He joined the Board of Directors of the California Hall of Fame (HOF) in 1987. The HOF was established in 1973 in a trailer placed on the shooting grounds at Kingsburg with no other place for the safekeeping and display of historical records and mementos. Bob and the HOF Board came up with the idea for a permanent building. Once again Bob set the bar for generosity by giving his talent, time, and money. He participated on the HOF Board for 25 years with the many other talented people who donated in the planning and organizing of the Hall that we share in and enjoy today.

Thank you, Bob, for your contributions to the Hall of Fame and your enthusiasm for the many generations of shooters in the past, present and future and for being a dedicated and generous friend to all of us in our trap shooting family.

Robert F Gioia
ATA No. 07-22506
April 3, 1936 – February 1, 2022

Terry Bilbey, Eileen Williamson, Steve Williamson, Richard Marascola and Al Yapelli contributed the history and memories of events in this remembrance written by Michael Bates.



With Al Yapelli, California Hall of Fame inductee, 2021

“SUCCESS IS TO BE MEASURED NOT SO MUCH BY THE POSITION THAT ONE HAS REACHED IN LIFE AS BY THE OBSTACLES WHICH ONE HAS OVERCOME”.

~ Booker T. Washington

THANK YOU

To the California Trapshooting Hall of Fame, thank you to all the Board Members through the years and all the volunteers. Thank you for your time and energy building a home to preserve our valuable and irreplaceable history.

CONGRATULATIONS

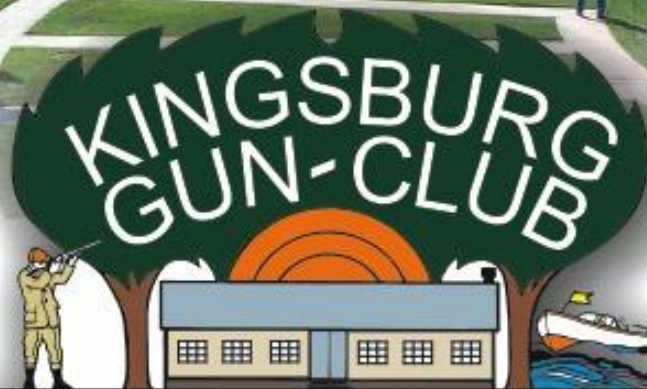
RICHIE CLODT, LORI CLODT & STEVE CLOYD

You are among the elite, you have competed for decades always putting forward your best effort, you picked yourself up when you stumbled, and you have added great value to our sport.

Congratulations from your friends at LA Clays and Oaktree Gun Club!



Home of the California State Shoot



UPCOMING SHOOTS 2023

July 14th-16th Western Zone Shoot

September 2nd & 3rd

October 7th & 8th

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tuesday Nights 5:00pm

Sunday 10:00am - 2:00pm

2246 Gilbert Dr, Kingsburg, CA 93631 - www.KINGSBURGGUNCLUB.COM

CONGRATULATIONS

*2023 California Trapshooting Hall of Fame Inductees
STEVE CLOYD, LORI CLODT AND RITCHIE CLODT*



"BEST TARGETS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA"

**Upcoming Registered
Shoot Dates**

September 9/9-9/10, 2023

October 10/28-10/29, 2023

**November 11/24, 11/25,
11/26, 2023**

**December 12/30, 12/31,
2023**

January 1/1, 2024

February 2/10-2/11, 2024

March 3/10-3/11, 2024

April 4/13-4/14, 2024

May 5/25-5/26, 2024

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We shoot 200 targets the first Sunday
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100 Singles
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- ∞ Annual Buckles awarded to 6 Singles classes, 6 Doubles Classes, 5 HC Classes + Hi Lady, Vet, Sr. Vet & Junior
- ∞ Annual 12 Point Buckle Awards
- ∞ Annual Champion of Champion Buckles to all Singles, Doubles, HC Classes + Hi Lady, Vet, Sr. Vet & Junior
- ∞ Monthly Awards to all Singles, Doubles, HC Classes + Hi Lady, Vet, Sr. Vet & Junior
- ∞ Monthly Buckles to the Hi Senior Vet
- ∞ Two Buckles per month awarded to a rotating class winner
- ∞ One Silver dollar every month to Hi Lady
- ∞ One Silver dollar every month to Hi Junior
- ∞ One Silver dollar every month to a rotating class winner
- ∞ One Silver dollar every month to Handicap winner



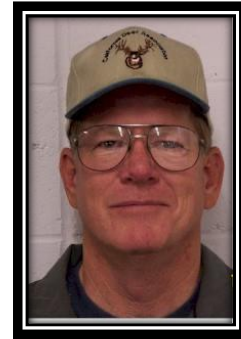
This Ad sponsored by: Michael Bates, Herb & Valerie Jones, Bryan Wright, Mark Harp and Brenda Roberson



KINGSBURG TRAP CLUB 2023

Congratulations Coach Steve Cloyd on your Induction into the Hall of Fame!

Your dedication to the our team is very much appreciated!



Please join us on **Friday, March 1st 2024**, for our Annual Crab Feed Dinner & Auction Fundraiser.

Shootout in the morning with gun prizes.
info.kingsburgtrapclub@gmail.com

Friends Of NRA Dinner
Hosted By Kingsburg Gun
Club

Saturday October 14, 2023



NRA™

**BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR 2023
GOLDEN STATE TRAP SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP SHOOTERS!**

from your California Trap Shooting Hall of Fame Board of Directors

