

Remembering Dexter Smith
by Thomas Bryant

Late in the year 2000, I moved to Sidney, Nebraska. As a lifelong shooter, I immediately sought out opportunities to shoot. Very quickly I found the Potter club and made the acquaintance of Dexter Smith. Dexter was quite welcoming and shared much information about shooting in the area. I had no idea that I was making a lifetime friendship with this kind and affable man. Over the years, Dexter and I would share the Firing Line together many times. And no matter whether we shot well or shot poorly we had a good time.

In the fall of 2004, a notice appeared in the newspaper asking for input from citizens about building a shooting range in Sidney. I was not surprised when Dexter was one of the first people I encountered at the meeting. By the end of that meeting, we had formed a board to begin the process of proposing a range for our community, and Dexter was one of the first to volunteer. From the beginning Dexter was a participant in every league we shot, and put in his time scoring, organizing and just enjoying the company. You could hardly ask for a better volunteer.

But this was just the tip of the iceberg with Dexter. His dedication to teaching ethical sportsmanship and firearms safety was unending. Dexter was a hunter safety instructor for many, many years. He volunteered as shooting coach for High Plains Pheasants Forever youth mentor hunts. And when 4H shooting programs began at the Shooting Park, Dexter was one of our first instructors. Dexter's passion for responsible hunting and shooting showed in everything he did. To say that he had an impact on many would be an understatement. Numerous generations of beginning shooters benefited from Dexter's genteel manner and his endless knowledge of the sport. Sharing the love of the activities he enjoyed was reward enough, but the smiles and successes of his students enriched his life. And our friendship with Dexter will continue to enrich our lives every bit as much.

Your presence will be missed, but your impact is everlasting, my friend.

Tom Bryant
Founding President
Sidney Shooting Park