



## **2011 Hall of Fame Shooting Member Virginia Hines Schmidt**

The Schmidt family name is well known in the shooting world. Virginia's parents, Mike and Dorothy Schmidt, ran the Minneapolis Gun Club from 1970 to 1988 while living in a house on the grounds. Virginia not only learned to shoot at the Minneapolis Gun Club but also worked there, setting trap (before there were automatic machines), pulling and scoring, cooking, cashing shoots and doing any and every other task needed. Virginia's father, Mike Schmidt Sr., shot skeet competitively while in the Marine Corps. Of the six

children in the family, Virginia and her brother, Mike Schmidt Jr., became serious shooters. The younger Mr. Schmidt's numerous skeet records and distinctions speak for themselves.

Virginia shot her first registered trap targets in 1976 at the age of 13. Over the next three years she shot 700 registered singles and 800 registered handicap targets. While her averages were over 90 percent those years, if it seems she wasn't taking the sport too seriously — it's because she was busy shooting registered skeet targets. She had a short but successful skeet shooting career. At the shoots she competed in she broke several 100 straights in all the gauges except the 410. She was on both the All State and All American Skeet Teams from 1976 to 1979. In 1978, at the age of 15, she set a World Shoot (similar to the Grand American in trapshooting) record, becoming the youngest female to break 100 straight with the 28 gauge.

Virginia's trapshooting career took off in 1980. Her biggest win that year was the Champion of Champions Ladies title at the Grand American. She achieved a lone 100 straight. Every year from 1980 to 1989, Virginia was on the Women's and/or Junior All State Trap Teams. She also was on the All American Women's Trapshooting First Team from 1983 to 1987 and the Second Team in 1981, '82, '88, and '89.

The accomplishment that makes Virginia most proud is her 1983 Trap and Field All Around average award. She had the highest All Around average of any woman in the country that year. Another feat that ranks high on Virginia's list of top accomplishments is making it to the 27 yard line. Virginia has won numerous honors at the Minnesota State Shoot, various other State Shoots, Zone Shoots, Satellite Grand Shoots and the Grand American. She shot with and competed against some fabulous shooters before her shooting career slowed in the late 1980s.

As the CFO and COO of Periscope, the largest independent advertising agency in the Midwest, Virginia's non-shooting career keeps her very busy. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her family. Both of her children are active in sports, and many hours are spent cheering them on at ball fields or basketball and volleyball courts.

Virginia, her husband, Stephen, and their two children live in Farmington, MN. She remains involved with the Minneapolis Gun Club as a member, board member and the current treasurer. Although Virginia hasn't shot registered targets in several years, she is still active in the sport — and rumors are she's considering a return as a competitor.