

Club celebrates history, future with a **BANG!**

BANG!

By Kyle Weaver
Editor

When Tom Knapp touched off his final shotgun blast on Sunday, it might very well have been a starter pistol—signaling the start of the gun club's next 75 years.

Founded on Nov. 16, 1933 in the basement of the former Bank of Osceola, the Osceola Rod and Gun Club celebrated its 75th anniversary last weekend by playing host to Knapp's blend of shooting sport and slapstick humor.

For the club's members, it was an exciting payoff for months of hard work and a chance to show off the club's best attributes.

Mike Annunziata, a gun club board member, helped lead the group that organized the show.

"It's high energy right now," Annunziata said of the club's membership.

Annunziata, who has been a club member for eight years, believes that gun clubs can do a lot to encourage young people to embrace the outdoors.

As a parent and, more recently, a coach of the club's Wisconsin State Scholastic Clay Target Program team, some of Annunziata's most memorable moments as a club member have come when teaching others.

One young boy Annunziata coached hit his very first clay target. Later, the child's mother also hit her first target, first shot.

"When you introduce someone to something new, something they may be intimidated by, and you see [them succeed] and it gets them excited,

Knapp/See page 2A



Trick shot artist Tom Knapp demonstrates how a pump shotgun can provide ambitious shooters with both a projectile and a target. Knapp's three performances last weekend were the centerpiece of a weekend-long celebration of the Osceola Rod and Gun Club's 75th anniversary. Photo by Kyle Weaver