

October 2012 Trap & Field Article By Ron Noren

Minnesota shooters did very well at this year's Grand American Trapshoot held at Sparta, Illinois August 8th thru the 18th. Twenty eight of the 81 shooters who attended from Minnesota took home a total of 59 awards at this year's event. Peter Walker from Sartell led the way with 6 trophies. During Grand week, Peter was HOA Runner-up with 964X1000 and HAA Runner-up with 390X400, losing 1st place by only one target in both. Mariah Michaelis, of Monicello, led the women with 3 trophies, including Ladies 1 Champion of Champions with 100X100. Glenn Linden was runner-up in the Men's Champion of Champions with 100X100. Colton Langer broke his first 200 straight in singles and ended up Junior Champion in the Beretta Singles Championship. Some additional highlights from Grand Preliminary week include: Bill VanNieuwenhuyzen winning runner-up in Sub-Veteran's in the Hodgdon Powder Singles with 100. Eric Munson was AAA winner in the Little Egypt Doubles with 100 and finished AAA runner-up in the Browning Super 500 Doubles with 491x500. Neil Winston was the Sr.Vet winner in the Trapshooting USA Handicap with a 97. Scott Gens was the NSSF Doubles runner-up with 100 straight. Dean Walker was the Veteran's winner in the Michelob Ultra Singles with 100. During Grand Week, Nick Kubasch finished 3rd in both the Winchester AA Class Singles and the Beretta Singles Championship with 200 each time plus many additional shootoff rounds. Nick Fetzik won Juniors in the Winchester AA Class Singles also with a 200X200. Eric Munson was the Browning Class Doubles runner-up with 100 straight. Emma Olson shot a 97 in the Crow Shooting Supply Handicap and after three shootoff rounds ended up 3rd Place in Sub-Juniors. It was a pleasure watching how poised Emma was during her shootoff, much more than her father, David. Emma has moved from the 20 yard line to the 25.5 yard line this year and I wouldn't be surprised if she's not on the 27 by year end. For additional Grand American winners, check out the website at www.rjstuart.com.

In the National Team Race, held on Friday of Preliminary Week, we had two teams place. The Men's Team consisting of Eric Munson, Scott Gens, Dean Neumann, Troy Haverly and Pat Gottberg took home 2nd Place. Minnesota Sub-Veteran trio of Bill VanNieuwenhuyzen, Rich Stuntebeck and Mark Zauhar finished Runner-up in their category.

A Minnesota squad accomplished something that very few shooters ever get a chance at. The squad of Dave Harris, Curt Peterson, Glenn Linden, Mariah Michaelis and Tim Mackey shot a 500X500 in the second 100 of the Winchester Class Singles. I can't imagine the pressure those shooters felt on the last few targets, especially Tim on the last one. Great job on not so easy targets! (see picture).



Dave Harris, Curt Peterson, Glenn Linden, Mariah Michaelis, Tim Mackey

There was a nice increase in attendance at this year's Grand with the weather cooperating most of the time. Preliminary week was a little hot and steamy, but Grand week had very comfortable temps and maybe was even a little chilly some mornings. Variable winds made the targets rather sporty at times and the scores showed it. There were only four 100 straights in all of the handicap events this year. Attendance was up big time during the prelims, mainly due to the two events that were added because of AIM shooters moving to the weekend. Grand Week, despite the nice weather, was down about 7%. Overall total entries were up 2,164 or about 7%. The peach ice cream and cobbler tasted great as usual and most of the vendors seemed satisfied with the turnout. Even though I didn't make big money in the Martin HOA Lewis Challenge during Grand Week or the ATA Lewis during Preliminary Week, I did manage to hit a few of the Martin's daily lewies to help cut expenses. Make plans now for the 2013 Grand. It's a great venue and the prize money is very enticing. There are plenty of places to stay if you start looking early.

Bemidji had twenty five entries August 18th and thirty-two entries on the 19th. Saturday, Russ Hiltz shot a 99 to lead the 16's, Brittany Vajdl & Darrel Terning each broke 92 to lead the Handicap and Darrel broke 96 in the Doubles. Sunday's events were led by Darrel's 100 in the 16's, Brittany's 94 in the caps and Darrel also took the Doubles with a 98.

Congratulations to Roger Hanson of Grove City who on August 4th, shot his first 100 X100 in the singles at the Buffalo Gun Club. May there be many more in the future!

Ron congratulates and presents “27 Yard” pins to two Juniors, Colton Langer and Zach Warweg, who recently made it to the “back fence”.



Ron & Colton Langer

Ron & Zach Warweg

We are winding up yet another year. There are still some marathons to shoot in October, so get out there. Thank you for supporting the MTA registered events this year and I hope to see you next spring. Invite a friend or two along with you and introduce them to our friendly competition. He or she will be hooked, just as we were!

Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any concerns or questions about trapshooting in our state. I appreciate the opinions and suggestions that I've been receiving. Also, let me know of any recognition for shooters accomplishments that should be mentioned in future articles. My phone is 507-381-5908 and e-mail is: Visit our web site at www.minnesotatrap.com

Ron Noren
ATA Delegate, MN