



THE DIXIE GRAND

BY TIFFANY DECKER

The 25th Annual Dixie Grand was held at the North Carolina Trapshooting home grounds in Bostic, North Carolina, from Tuesday September 26 to Sunday October 1, 2023. The North Carolina Trapshooting Home grounds has 16 program traps, 1 practice trap, 80 full hook-up campsites and 10 water & electric campsites. The program this year consisted of 1300 targets. 380 shooters came from 29 different states / provinces to participate. Fall could be felt in the air all week. The cooler than normal daytime temperatures (70's and 80's) and the beautiful Harvest moon displays in the evenings were perfect for a week of shooting.

TUESDAY

Tuesday's events consisted of Event 1 the Doug Damron Singles presented in Honor of Wounded Warriors, Event 2 the Gage Malone Handicap presented by Durham County Wildlife Club and Event 3 the James Flint Doubles presented by Pat-Trap, Inc.

3 shooters had 100's in the singles – Tyler Honnold (TN) Junior Champion, David Degregorio (CT) Sub Veteran winner, and Louis Diprete (RI) Veteran winner.

Sheldon Hostetter of Pennsylvania shot at his 400,000 singles targets during Event 1. Congratulations Sheldon! Rumor has it, if all goes as planned, Sheldon will shoot his millionth total target sometime next summer.

Sheldon Hostetter (PA) and Jason Dancy (NC) shot a high score of 96 in the handicap. Jason prevailed in the shoot off to be crowned champion, while Sheldon took Senior Veteran winner. Other scores were Carl Chadwell (MI) 95 Sub Veteran



SHELDON HOSTETTER AND HERBERT LEWIS

winner, Keith Miranda (NY) 95 Senior Veteran runner up, Tip Wight (VA) 94 Sub Veteran runner up, Cody Meredith (FL) 93 Junior winner, and Tim Fields (TN) 92 runner up.

The high score in the doubles event was a 96 shot by Tyler Honnold (TN) the Junior winner and Urban Womer (NY) the Veteran winner.

Other scores in the doubles event were Dan Ryan (KY) 95 AA winner, Carl Chadwell (MI) 95 Sub Veteran winner, Elwood Tyler Jr (VA) 95 Senior Veteran winner, Michael Burnette (TN) 95 Veteran runner up after the carry over, and Frank Pascoe (PA) 95.

WEDNESDAY

The opening ceremonies were held Wednesday morning before the shooting began. Bob Schultz (NCTHOF Delegate), Hunter Galloway (ATA Secretary), Terry Roush (past ATA president) and Wayne Morris (past ATA President) welcomed all the shooters to the 25th Dixie Grand. North Carolina Trapshooting Association would like to welcome Wayne Morris and his lovely wife Joyce to the Southern Zone. Wayne and Joyce recently moved to Florida and attended their first Dixie Grand in North Carolina this year.

Event 4 the Singles Class Championship presented by Brad Barnett & Tiffany Decker, Event 5 the Carolina Doubles presented by Watauga Gun Club and Event 6 the Foothills Doubles presented by Buckhorn Gun Club were shot on Wednesday.

Three perfect scores of 100 were shot on Wednesday in Event 4. The shooters who shot 100's were Kevin Polson (KY) the Sub Veteran winner, Randy Parson (PA) Sub Veteran runner up, and Douglas Howell (MD) Senior Veteran winner. Scores of 99 were shot by Quinlan Degraff (VA) Sub Junior winner, Tyler Honnold (TN) Junior winner, Cody Meredith (FL) Junior runner up, Deborah Ohye Neilson (PA) Lady II winner, Mark Spoon (NC) Veteran winner, Ronnie Fearheiley (IL) Veteran runner up, and Walter Kern (TN) Senior Veteran runner up.

The program on Wednesday afternoon consisted of 2 - 50 pair doubles events. In Event 5 Michael Burnette (TN) the Veteran winner and Tyler Honnold (TN) the Junior winner shot 99's to win their respective categories. Scores of 97 were shot by Ethan Ledford (GA) the Junior Gold winner, Carl Chadwell (MI) the Sub Veteran winner, James

Hughes (NC) the Sub Veteran runner up, Frank Pascoe (PA) the Veteran runner up,

The Dixie Grand Miss and Out fun shoot was held Wednesday evening. The event is sponsored by Target Shotguns and Bob Schultz. The proceeds from the shoot are awarded to the scorekeepers and loaders as bonuses at the end of the week. Shooters competed to win Remington Nitro ammunition donated by Target Shotguns and Bob Schultz. Thank you to Jim Hughes and Bob Schultz for running the event. The winners were Danny Ryan, John Pendergast III, Marty Hill, and Cody Meredith. Thank you to all the shooters who participated in the event.

THURSDAY

Under dark, cloudy skies, Event 7 The Blue Ridge Handicap presented by Rockingham County Gun Club started the day off on Thursday. Jacob Gossett was crowned champion after shooting a 97 from the 19-yard line. Three shooters had 95's – Anthony Browder (TN) runner up, John Watkins (MD) Senior Veteran winner, and Dan Brandeth (FL) Sub Veteran winner.

After 2 days of cloudy weather, the sun finally made an appearance during Event 8 the Doubles Class Championship presented by Target Shotguns, Inc. 2 shooters shot their first 100 straights in the event. Herbert Lewis (KY) and Nicole Hood (PA) shot perfect scores to win Class AAA and Lady I respectively. Frank Pascoe (PA) won Veteran with a 98 and John Federici (RI) won Senior Veteran with a 98. Billy Soper (NC) took A class honors with a 97 and Carl Chadwell (MI) won Sub Veteran with a 97.

FRIDAY

Under sunny skies and mid 80 temperatures, Event 9 the Caesar Guerini Preliminary Handicap and Event 10 the Fiocchi Doubles Championship were shot on Friday. Richard Gadbois (SC) broke 99 to win the preliminary handicap. Matthew Coates (VA) the Junior winner shot a 97 and Herbert Lewis (KY) the runner up shot a 96.

Tyler Honnold (TN) and James Ethan Miles (GA) both broke 99's in the Doubles Championship event. After one round of shoot off, Tyler Honnold (19) was crowned the 2023 Dixie Grand Doubles Champion and James Ethan Miles (17) was the Junior Gold Doubles Champion. 3 shooters shot 98's – Carl Chadwell (MI) Sub Veteran Champion, William Natcher (PA) Veteran Champion, and Ethan Ledford (GA) Junior Gold runner-up.

DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	TYLER HONNOLD	TN	99
RU	DONALD S WEBB	MS	97
AAA	URBAN R WOMER	NY	96
AA	BRADY J COX	IL	95
A	LOUIS DIPRETE	RI	95
B	DAVID SMILEY	NC	94
C	GEORGE F HAFKEMEYER	VA	92
D	ROBERT T POBIEGA	SC	90
SUB JR	ETHAN W FERRIS	WV	93
JR	TRISTAN SHUPE	VA	95
JR GOLD	JAMES ETHAN MILES	GA	99
LDI	HEIDI WOMER	NY	97
LDII	DEBORAH OHYE NEILSON	PA	91
SUB VET	CARL CHADWELL	MI	98
VET	WILLIAM A NATCHER	PA	98
SR VET	JOHN N FEDERICI	RI	95

SATURDAY

Saturday was the busiest day of the week. 325 shooters came out to shoot Event 11 the Browning Singles Championship. There were 8 100's in the first round and 10 100's in the second round. But, at the end of the event, only 2 shooters had perfect scores of 200, Tyler Honnold (TN) and Deborah Ohye Neilson (PA). After 1 round of shoot off, Tyler Honnold (25) was crowned the 2023 Dixie Grand Singles Champion and Deborah Ohye Neilson (23) won Lady II Singles Champion. This gave Tyler 2 championship titles for the 2023 Dixie Grand. Herbert Lewis (KY) the runner up, Tristan Shupe (VA) the Junior Champion, John Kirksey (MD) the Sub Veteran Champion, and Lester Ott (PA) the Veteran Champion all shot 199's.

SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	TYLER HONNOLD	TN	200
RU	HERBERT D LEWIS	KY	199
AAA	GERALD E WHITING	MI	197
AA	DONALD S WEBB	MS	198
A	PHILLIP N BAGWELL	SC	197
B	JOHN PENDERGAST III	SC	195
C	COLSON W ALLEN	NC	194
D	TRINITY K MORRIS	SC	194
SUB JR	ETHAN W FERRIS	WV	194
JR	TRISTAN SHUPE	VA	199
JR GOLD	CALEB A MATHIS	NC	198
LDI	HEIDI WOMER	NY	197
LDII	DEBORAH OHYE NEILSON	PA	200
SUB VET	JOHN C KIRKSEY	MD	199
VET	LESTER R OTT	PA	199
SR VET	STEPHEN S RUSSELL	TN	198



TYLER HONNOLD

SUNDAY

MICHAEL POBIEGA



HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMP	MICHAEL J POBIEGA	SC	97
RU	TIM DAVIS	NC	97
3RD	CHRIS POWELL	NC	95
4TH	JAMES IVEY III	NC	95
5TH	BRIAN J ZICK	PA	94
6TH	THOMAS JAMES HOOD	PA	93
7TH	HERBERT D LEWIS	KY	93
8TH	JOHN E WATKINS	MD	93
9TH	PAUL G LUX	OH	93
10TH	JAMES FLINT	NY	93
SUB JR	JACOB C GOSSETT	NC	90
JR	MATTHEW R COATES	VA	94
JR GOLD	BRADY J COX	IL	92
LDI	KAYLEE G DUBOIS	TN	94
LDII	CASSIE HAMMOND	MD	97
SUB VET	ROBERT A ROGAN JR.	TN	94
VET	LLOYD C. BEECRAFT	ON	97
SR VET	MIKE WESTJOHN	IL	94

The final event of the week was Event 12 the Winchester Ammunition Handicap Championship. At the end of the event, 4 shooters were on top of the leader board with 97's. After 2 rounds of shoot off, Michael Pobiega (SC) was crowned the 2023 Dixie Grand Handicap Champion. Tim Davis (NC) was the runner-up, Lloyd Beecraft (ON) was the Veteran Champion, and Cassie Hammond (MD) was the Lady II Champion.

HIGH ALL AROUND

HAA			
CH	HERBERT D LEWIS	KY	388
AAA	CARL CHADWELL	MI	383
AA	DONALD S WEBB	MS	388
A	PHILLIP N BAGWELL	SC	381
B	ROBERT BATTISTA	NJ	375
C	WILMER C OHRMUND	WI	373
D	ISAAC L MCCOY	NC	381
SUB JR	JACOB GOSSETT	NC	376
JR	TYLER HONNOLD	TN	385
JR GOLD	ETHAN C LEDFORD	GA	385
LDI	HEIDI WOMER	NY	381
LDII	DEBORAH OHYE NEILSON	PA	385
SUB VET	JOHN C KIRKSEY	MD	385
VET	WILLIAM A NATCHER	PA	385
SR VET	MIKE WESTJOHN	IL	380

Herbert Lewis (KY) was the HAA Champion with a score of 388x400 and a shoot off win over Donald Webb (MS). Donald Webb fell back to Class AA Champion. HAA scores of 385 were shot by Tyler Honnold (TN) Junior Champion over Tristan Shupe (VA) by forfeit, Ethan Ledford (GA) Junior Gold Champion, Deborah Ohye Neilson (PA) Lady II Champion, John Kirksey (MD) Sub Veteran Champion, and William Natcher (PA) Veteran Champion.

HIGH OVER ALL

HERBERT LEWIS



Herbert Lewis of Kentucky also won the High Over All with a score of 966x1000. The closest shooter to Herbert was Ethan Ledford (GA) the Junior Gold HOA Champion with a score of 958. Tyler Honnold (TN) won Junior HOA Champion with a score of 956 and Carl Chadwell (MI) won Sub Veteran HOA Champion with a score of 953.

Thank you to the board members and volunteers from the North Carolina Trapshooting Association who spent countless weeks preparing for the 2023 Dixie Grand and working many hours each day to

keep the event running smoothly. The events started promptly, targets were exceptional, and shoot offs were completed promptly each evening. We all want to post a great score, but at the end of the day it's the friendships that we make trapshooting that bring us the most happiness. This could be seen every evening after the shooting was completed. I saw shooters gathered in restaurants eating together, fish and steak fries being prepared in the campground and friends sitting around talking and laughing well into the evening.



HOA			
CH	HERBERT D LEWIS	KY	966
AAA	KEVIN POLSON	KY	937
AA	JAMES FLINT	NY	942
A	DONALD S WEBB	MS	950
B	LARRY E HIGH	NC	910
C	CHANNING R GARRETT	TN	902
D	JACOB C GOSSETT	NC	924
SUB JR	ETHA W FERRIS	WV	929
JR	TYLER HONNOLD	TN	956
JR GOLD	ETHAN C LEDFORD	GA	958
LDI	NICOLE ANN HOOD	PA	922
LDII	DEBORAH OHYE NEILSON	PA	943
SUB VET	CARL CHADWELL	MI	953
VET	FRANK L PASCOE	PA	949
SR VET	JOHN N FEDERICI	RI	941

Plan to put the 2024 Dixie Grand on your schedule. The warm fall weather and southern hospitality makes for a perfect end to the summer and a start to the new target year. Come enjoy a week shooting at the beautiful North Carolina Trapshooting Association home grounds. In between events you can sit in a rocking chair on the front porch of the event building and enjoy the view of the Blue Ridge Mountain Foothills. If you have time, plan to spend a few extra days exploring the Blue Ridge Parkway National Park, Biltmore Castle, Chimney Rock State Park, Lake Lure (where much of the movie Dirty Dancing was filmed), the Tyrone International equestrian center and/or Asheville, North Carolina. In addition to excellent trapshooting. There are lots of great restaurants, shopping, and scenery to enjoy in the mountains of North Carolina.

Wishing everyone a blessed year and safe travels.

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