

# 2023 EMPIRE GRAND

BY CHERYLL PITERRA



The 19th Empire Satellite Grand was held at the New York State Trapshooting Home Grounds in Cicero, NY on May 10th through the 14th. Attendance was up 27 percent for the season opener in the Northeast. After a slow wet Spring start, the weather was to be sunny and warm at long last and the home grounds were in fine order.

## WARMING UP

The five-day tournament began with the aptly named Warm Up Events. Don Neilson (PA) would be the Champion in Singles by carryover and Robert Harris, the Sub Veteran winner with 99's. Darrin Cooke (NY) was the Handicap Champion with a field high of 95. Don Alderson (NY) claimed the Doubles with 97.

## THURSDAY

On Day two, the Empire Singles held two straights with Michael Gooch (IN) running another 25 in carryover for Champion and Herbert

Lewis (KY) landing AAA. Out of the nine 99's, six placed for trophies in Class and Category. Daniel Fadden (NY) bested the



MICHAEL GOOCH

field with 97 for top Handicap honors.

He received a yard back to 26 and ATA Vice President Joe Sissano (NJ) received one yard as the Senior Veteran winner with 95.

The day wrapped up with the Empire Doubles. The Champion trophy being awarded to Urban Womer (NY) breaking 98. Chad Landon (NY) was right behind taking Triple A with 97.



URBAN WOMER

## FRIDAY

Entries jumped to 243 for the Class Singles and five hundreds were posted in the event. Dave Shaeffer Jr. (MD) in AAA, Chad Landon in AA, and Marco Cannizzaro (QU) in A. Bob Edwards (NY) took Veteran honors and Keith Miranda (NY) was the Senior Veteran winner.

Conditions turned pretty



DAVE SHAEFFER JR

blustery and made for some sporty targets in the Empire Grand Caesar Guerini Preliminary Handicap. Nevertheless, Dave Corrente (NY) won the Champion trophy with 98 and was also awarded a yard punch for his efforts. Notable was Paul Shaw (ON) from the back fence putting up a 95 to obtain Senior Veteran



HERBERT LEWIS

In the Empire Grand Class Doubles, Herbert Lewis brought the highest score with 98 taking AA. Next, Robert Nihtila Jr. (MA) claimed AAA with 97. Scores of 96 came from Carl Chadwell (MI), the Sub Veteran winner and Donald Alderson, the Senior Veteran champ after a carryover with Jerome Stefkovich (PA) who finished as Senior Veteran runner-up. Nicole Ann Hood (PA) also posted a 96 to earn Lady I honors.



CARL CHADWELL

## SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday's Empire Grand Singles Championship brought 241 competitors to the line. Carl Chadwell of Michigan topped the field with a 199. Coming in at 198 were Herbert Lewis and Ben Snyder. The shooters met on the line to match with straights at the first box. Back out Lewis would repeat taking the runner-up trophy and Snyder landing Triple A. Keith Miranda (NY) claimed Senior Veteran with 197 and Chad Landon (NY) and Walter Mader Jr. (OH) settled Triple A runner-up 196s with Mader the winner in the second shoot-off round.

## SUNDAY

The traps were set early Sunday morning and it is always a bit melancholy as campers are busy packing up what they can in order to make their departures home. The Empire Grand Championship Doubles of 149 were called to the benches. The high score of the event came from Louis Diprete (RI) with 97 to earn the Champion title. Scores of 96 would have to meet on

### EMPIRE GRAND SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	CARL CHADWELL	MI	199
RU	HERBERT LEWIS	KY	198
AAA	BEN SNYDER	PA	198
AA	BRIAN LUTHER	NY	194
A	TIMOTHY CORRENTE	NY	193
B	DEREK SCRIMSHAW	ON	192
C	ALEX FISCHER	NY	193
D	EDWIN JOHNSON	NY	188
LD1	NICOLE HOOD	PA	193
LD2	DEBORAH OHYE NEILSON	PA	193
SUB JR	ETHAN FARRIS	WV	188
JR	CHASE WOJTIK	NY	193
JR GOLD	AARON LEONE	NY	188
SUB VET	ROBERT RAPPLEYEA	NY	195
VET	ROBERT MORPHY	ON	195
SR VET	KEITH MIRANDA	NY	197

### EMPIRE GRAND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	LOUIS DIPRETE	RI	97
RU	BEN SNYDER	PA	96
AAA	ROBERT NIHTILA	MA	96
AA	BRIAN LUTHER	NY	96
A	DEREK SCRIMSHAW	ON	90
B	DENNIS BOBBETTE	NY	90
C	DAVE ABBOTT	ON	92
D	THOMAS HOOD	PA	89
LD1	NICOLE ANN HOOD	PA	93
LD2	DEBORAH OHYE NEILSON	PA	83
SUB JR	ETHAN FERRIS	WV	86
JR	JOSEPH BRECK IV	PA	95
JR GOLD	MICHAEL BUMPUS	NY	84
SUB VET	CARL CHADWELL	MI	94
VET	URBAN WOMER	NY	93
SR VET	PETER EATON	NH	92

the line to settle runner-up. Robert Nihtila Jr. didn't answer the call and became the AAA winner. Ben Snyder would return to compete with Brian Luther (NY) with Snyder breaking one more than Luther landing the runner-up spot. Luther finished as the AA winner. Scores of 94 shot off for Sub Veteran and runner-up with Jim Flint (NY), Michael Gooch and Carl Chadwell being called for the shoot-off. It was settled on the third box and Carl Chadwell became the Sub Veteran winner, with Michael Gooch the runner-up. Joseph Breck IV claimed Junior honors with 95.

Wind was a major thorn in the final Empire Grand Handicap event. Edwin Johnson (NY) posted the field high score of 94 achieving the Championship title. Next up would be 90s with Thomas Kennedy (NY) and Michael Bumpus (NY) placing for 3rd and 4th respectively. At the end of the Handicap, the place was hopping with staff tallying scores and preparing for final shoot-offs and High All Arouns. Finding and congratulating winners, taking photos and the ever looming packing up on my mind. It was quite the shock when fellow correspondent Josh Buchiere



LOUIS DIPRETE

### EMPIRE GRAND HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	EDWIN JOHNSON	NY	94
2ND	BRIAN LUTHER	NY	91
3RD	THOMAS KENNEDY	NY	90
4TH	MICHAEL BUMPUS	NY	90
5TH	BEN SNYDER	PA	88
6TH	THOMAS HOOD	PA	87
7TH	DAVID CORRENTE	NY	87
LD1	NICOLE ANN HOOD	PA	81
LD2	DAWN PETTENGIL	ME	76
SUB JR	ETHAN FERRIS	WV	86
JR	ANDREW GOODWIN	NY	92
JR GOLD	AARON LEONE	NY	93
SUB VET	CARL CHADWELL	MI	89
VET	DAVID CICHELLI	NY	90
SR VET	ROBERT BREDNIAK	PA	89

informed me that I was in a shoot-off. "You're kidding me, right?" Smiling he replied, "Nope, you and three others." Who would have thought? Scores of 76 were called to check in for Lady II honors. Debbie Ohye Neilson (PA) had already left the grounds leaving Tammy Wildenstein (NY), Dawn Pettengil (ME) and myself to shoot. Dan Pettengil claimed the trophy with one target over Tammy Wildenstein taking the runner-up spot. For me, it was back to packing! It was a lot of fun and just goes to show, never give up no matter how hard the targets or how bad you think you shot. It might just be enough.

Ben Snyder and Carl Chadwell



EDWIN JOHNSON



DAWN PETTENGIL



NICOLE ANN HOOD.



DEBBIE OHYE NEILSON

tied in the High All Around with 382x400. Chadwell claimed Sub Veteran and Snyder was the Kolar HAA Champion. There would be one shoot-off for High Over All between Mark Poulin (ME) and Dennis Bobbette (NY). The two tied in the first set and Bobbette garnered the Class A Champion title in the second. The White Flyer HOA Champion winner was Carl Chadwell with 943x1000.

Despite some challenging conditions this year, the Empire Grand in New York is a great way to kick off the shooting season for many Northeasterners. There were some great performances turned in and some of the memorable ones came from Category stand outs Debbie Ohye Neilson in Lady II with

EMPIRE GRAND HIGH ALL AROUND			
CH	BEN SNYDER	PA	382
AAA	DAVID SHAFFER JR	MD	374
AA	BRIAN LUTHER	NY	381
A	OSKER REYNOLDS	MD	365
B	MARK JOHNSON	NY	361
C	THOMAS JAMES HOOD	PA	359
D	EDWIN JOHNSON	NY	370
LD1	NICOLE ANN HOOD	PA	367
LD2	DEBORAH OHYE NEILSON	PA	352
SUB-JR	ETHAN FERRIS	WV	360
JR	TJ CALVARUSO	NY	353
JR GOLD	AARON LEONE	NY	364
SUB VET	CARL CHADWELL	MI	382
VET	LOUIS DIPRETE	RI	370
SR VET	KEITH MIRANDA	NY	371

eleven trophies, Nicole Hood in Lady I with ten trophies and Ethan Ferris in Sub Junior with ten

EMPIRE GRAND HIGH OVER ALL			
CH	CARL CHADWELL	MI	943
AAA	HERBERT LEWIS	KY	936
AA	CHAD LANDON	NY	935
A	DENNIS BOBBETTE	NY	906
B	MARK JOHNSON	NY	888
C	JAMES CADIGAN	ON	898
D	EDWIN JOHNSON	NY	911
LD1	NICOLE ANN HOOD	PA	916
LD2	DEBORAH OHYE NEILSON	PA	911
SUB-JR	ETHAN FERRIS	WV	883
JR	BRANDON HOOD	PA	903
SUB VET	MICHAEL GOOCH	IN	923
VET	LOUIS DIPRETE	RI	919
SR VET	KEITH MIRANDA	NY	933

trophies. Put this shoot on your list for next year. ■

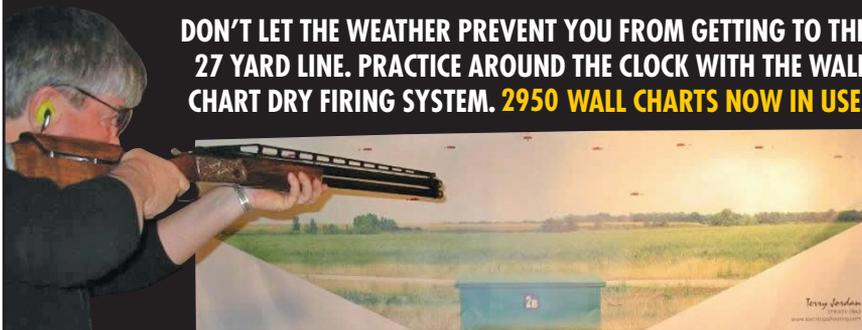


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