

THE HEARTLAND GRAND

BY KARLA HARRISON

Shooters from coast-to-coast set sail to cruise into the 2023 Heartland Grand and were greeted by "Captain Dale". In addition to Dale Stockdale, ATA All American Veteran Captain, they found themselves competing with ATA All Americans, Lady 1 Captain Raylee Bishop and Junior Captain Cole Henning. All three of the newly recognized leaders with All American points are Iowa residents.



Cole Henning may be shooting in the Junior category, but he is serious competition among all shooters, everywhere he goes. This past target year, the William Penn University freshman traveled to the Autumn Grand in Tucson, AZ to bring home High Over All and High All Around accolades, plus he won the championship handicap event title. At his own 2023 Iowa state shoot, Cole added the High Over All honor for his second state championship. At the Western Grand, in Vernal UT, he carded his second career 100 in the handicap. In this year's Grand American, he topped the Junior category during prelim week's High All Around and High Over All events. His HAA championship at the

Autumn Grand, had qualified him for the Kolar HAA shootoff at Sparta. He won that shootoff with a perfect 70/70 score. In addition to being an ATA captain, he is the 2023 captain of the Iowa State Trap Association's elite team.

Raylee Bishop closed out her 2023 shooting year just shy of registering 15,000 additional targets. She participated in 11 tournaments, across 7 states. Looking back on several highlights, she considers her top accomplishments to be: winning both the Lady 1 High Over All and Lady 1 High All Around during Grand American championship week and during prelim grand week; breaking 500X500 singles during this year's prelim week at the Grand; breaking



DALE STOCKDALE DAVID DEITCH

300X300 doubles in Wisconsin and winning the Missouri State non-resident singles championship. The Lady 1 to beat at most tournaments, she is a team member for William Penn University.

It's been quite an exciting year for Dale Stockdale. A very humble man, Stockdale said, "When being named to the 2023 Hall of Fame, I got to thinking... wouldn't it be cool to be captain the year I go in the Hall of Fame?" (Selected shooters are announced a year prior to the induction ceremony.) It was a goal that he feels he reached, simply because so many things just "fell into place" and it all began at the 2023 Spring Grand, where he won the veteran category High Over All.

Normally, Dale would have headed back to Iowa, but this year his first grandchild was about to be born, so in a race that would rival Robert Hight (trapshooter/pro-racer), he steered his motorhome to Virginia to greet his new grandson. Since he was "on that side of the country" he decided to shoot the Southern Grand, adding yet another High Over All title. Coming from state shoots, zone shoots, satellite grands and the Grand American, Dale added 84 trophies to his clubhouse this year alone.

The Heartland Grand is the last opportunity in the target year for shooters to add All American points. Dale doesn't shoot the Heartland, there just aren't enough hours in each day to manage the tournament,

plus compete. Besides, he didn't need to add to his total, he had already earned enough points to top the Veteran's category.

Anyone who has ever taken a cruise vacation knows the experience is filled with fun, food and friendships and this Heartland Grand lived up to true "cruise ship" expectations. Dale, and his first-mate, Matt Stockdale had the gun club grounds on the family's farm (near Ackley, Iowa) in ship-shape condition when the first shooters arrived. This 16th annual satellite grand (held August 21-27) continues to build on a reputation for outstanding hospitality and this year, out of state shooters showed up in record numbers.

Beginning on Monday, cookouts were provided to all shooters and their guests every evening. Most of the meals were made possible by a crew from the local United Methodist church. These devoted members manned the Titanic-sized BBQ grill, prepared side dishes, and served. Depending on the weather (a tropical heatwave some evenings made eating outside on the patio uncomfortable) diners assembled inside the clubhouse.

But the August heat didn't stop the after-hours fun and shooting games. A Wobble Osculating Doubles-Singles (buddy-buddy) contest took place on opening night. The big screen TV miss-and-out shootoff (won by Kahne Packer) entertained the crowd on Tuesday. Mike Bright navigated the pellet grills to prepare Iowa pork loins before the National Pump'em Doubles were shot on Wednesday evening. A pizza party was sponsored by Brew Pub Pizza prior to the wobble event under the Thursday Night's Lights. Friday's fish and shrimp fry set the stage for the Choosy Muthas Band that entertained after dark on the patio. The first annual cowboy hat contest was held at intermission of their performance. Saturday ended a week of great hospitality with a ribeye steak dinner and while many were still onboard deck, a special event auction was held before Sunday's handicap championship. Dave Dressler captained the auctioneering.

PRELIM EVENTS

When the Jim Bradford Hall of Fame Singles was finally decided by carry-overs, Zach Nannini was the AAA champion over Caleb Fischer, Jason Krause, Monte Kloubec and Perry Weiner. Nels Johnson's perfect score carried over to claim the Sub Veteran championship by one target over David Deitch. Scores of 99 kept on standing later into the week to establish the Class B, Lady 2, and Senior Veteran champions.

The Jim Bradford Hall of Fame Handicap top scores of 98 went one round of extras to award the champion's title to Chuck Schulte and the runner-up honor to Jason Krause. It took two shootoff rounds to decide third through fifth places.

A lone 100 topped the scoreboard in the Jim Bradford Hall of Fame Doubles. Jason Krause took home the Class AAA award. Class B high scores of 94; Junior scores of 99; Junior Gold scores of 97; and Sub Veteran scores of 99 were all settled by sub-event scores.

Jim Bradford sponsored the Hall of Fame cookout with Iowa pork chops served from the grill.

PRELIM EVENTS

Pat's Auto Salvage sponsored all three events on Tuesday. The day began with doubles and Rick Marshall made his presence known with a score of 99 for the Class AAA championship. Also posting scores of 99 were David Bacon (A champ); Gavin Kuck (Junior champ); and Leo Brand.

In the 16-yard contest it took a 100 straight to win classes and categories. Zach Nannini bested Richard Bullard, Rick Marshall and Caleb Fischer for Class AAA. Samuel Leiendecke posted the lone 100 in Class AA. Aiden Deitering was the Junior champ with his perfect score. Troy Haverly claimed Sub Veteran and Gerald Demulling earned Veteran honors, both with the only 100 within their categories.



DAVE DRESSLER

Pat's Auto Salvage Handicap concluded the day with Dave Dressler breaking the only 100, and doing it from the back fence. Rob Taylor's 99 was tops in the Veteran category.

Pat's Auto Salvage made possible an evening meal of BBQ chicken and fixin's, served under the patio tent.

WEDNESDAY

The competition got hot, when the temperatures got even hotter, as the Midland Power Singles began the High Over All race. Jennifer Rutger (TX) swept all of Wednesday's events in the Lady 1 category.



It took 200 carryover targets to award Harlan Campbell the Class AAA award. Zach Nannini eventually earned the AAA runner-up trophy over Jason Krause, Bradley Gray, Ryan Glow and Perry Weiner. Scores of 99 crowded the AA, A and B classes. Two Sub Veterans and three Veterans put up 100 straights, including George Hass (Sub Veteran champ); David Deitch; Gerald Demulling (Veteran champ); Art Peyton and David Womack.



MICHAEL GOOCH

Michael Gooch, a gun vendor set up on the grounds representing the Indiana Gun Club, not only sponsored the handicap event, he won the Sub Veteran category with a 98. Local resident, Shelly Heitner was event champion (99) relegating the Lady 2 title to Jackie Garrigus (MT).

Decots by Dave Doubles primed twin bird shooters for the National Pump'em Doubles that were shot later in the evening. Rick Marshall (NE) prevailed in the program as AAA champ with 100. Jason Krause (NE) was declared runner-up after falling one bird short in the carryover ahead of Tim Reed (SD).

14-year-old Makenzie Ludlow traveled from Elk Grove, CA to win her first ever trophy in a doubles event. The petite young lady was Class D runner-up with a score of 88.

THURSDAY

Fifty pairs of satellite grand Class Doubles kicked off the shooting on Thursday. The Class Singles followed in the program before the West Fork 100 Handicap.

Stan Welte posted the lone 100 to claim the Veteran's Class Doubles trophy. Other awards required carryovers to decide: Rick Marshall (AAA/99); Jason Krause (AAA runner-up/99); Herbert Lewis (AA/98); Justin Debrie (A/98); Evan Maple (Junior/98); Troy Haverly (Sub Veteran/98) and Kenneth Johnston (Senior Veteran/98).

A carry over of 250 targets still hadn't decided the AAA champ in the Class Singles, so a coin toss awarded the top trophy to Herbert Lewis and runner-up to Rick Marshall. Additional carry over scores were checked in order to fill out the trophy list: Jon Mead (AA/100); Jesse Secrest (A/99); Brennan Boltjes (B/98); David Smith (C/96); Kimberly Ideen (Lady 1/98); Robert Gropp (Junior/100); Carson Cummings (Junior Gold/100); Scott Gens (Sub Veteran/100); Frank Sick (Veteran/100); and Mike Westjohn (Senior Veteran/99).



MACKENZIE LUDLOW



GEORGE DOBNEY

George Dobney might just consider the Stockdale Gun Club as his favorite place to shoot. In the West Ford 100 Handicap, he broke his first ever 100, winning the champion's trophy. It was just last year that the short yardage shooter broke his first ever 50 straight, also at the Stockdale Gun Club.

Rob Taylor elected to take the Veteran's trophy (99) leaving long yardage scores of 98 to fill the trophy list: Ryan Glow (runner-up); Rich Bullard (3rd) and Steven Fuller (4th).

FRIDAY

A brief early morning thunderstorm settled the dust before the Fiocchi Doubles Championship but it didn't dampen the scores. This premier Doubles event of the week had 234 entries.

HEARTLAND GRAND FIOCCHI DOUBLES

CH	RICHARD MARSHALL	100
RU	PETER WALKER	99
AAA	SCOTT GENS	99
AA	DAVID DEITCH	99
A	SAMUEL LEIENDECKE	98
B	DAVID SMITH	95
C	RON GORDON	95
D	DEAN DAVIS	90
LD I	RAYLEE BISHOP	99
LD II	SANDRA JO JACK	95
SUB-JR	KAHNE PACKER	98
JR	GIL PALMER	99
JRG	HUNTER SPRUILL	99
SUB-VT	DEAN TOWNSEND	100
VT	ROB TAYLOR	98
SR-VT	JOHN HUGHES	97

Three shooters posted perfect 100s, laying the foundation for their eventual High All-Around totals. Rick Marshall (champion) bested Dean Townsend (Sub Veteran champ) and George Hass (Sub Veteran runner-up).

Fifteen scores were just one bird off the pace, with out-of-staters dominating the winner's list.

Leland Hassler officially registered over 200,000 doubles during the Heartland Grand. He celebrated with cake and friends in the clubhouse.



LELAND HASSLER AND DALE STOCKDALE



KAHNE PACKER

The young guns came out blazing in the Caesar Guerini Handicap. Sub Junior Kahne Packer was champion with the only 100, and shot from the back fence. Ryan Glow was runner-up with 99. Trophies were awarded to the top 10 places and included: Peter Walker (98/3rd); Jason Krause (98/4th); Joe Blazek (97/5th); Chris Vinatieri (97/6th); David Swigart (97/7th); Gil Palmer (96/8th); Leo Brand (96/9th); and Andrew Husske (96/10th).

Event 17, the Jack Knaus Singles, was named in honor of last year's champion and this year, he returned to win Junior Gold top honors. Rick Marshall was declared the champion following a 150 bird carry over with a dozen others.

SATURDAY

HEARTLAND GRAND BROWNING SINGLES

CH	JACK KNAUS	200
RU	HERBERT LEWIS	200
AAA	RICHARD MARSHALL	200
AA	GLEN LONNEMAN	196
A	DAVID BACON	198
B	ALLEN ANDERSON	196
C	RICHARD THOMPSON	193
D	MIKE HUPER	192
LD I	RAYLEE BISHOP	197
LD II	SANDRA JO JACK	199
SUB-JR	KAHNE PACKER	196
JR	GAVIN KUCK	199
JRG	CARSON CUMMINGS	197
SUB-VET	DAVID DEITCH	199
VET	FRANK SICK	197
SR-VET	CHARLES GANDERT	195



JACK KNAUS

The Browning Singles Championship recorded the largest number of entries at 282. Jack Knaus, Herbert Lewis, and Rick Marshall opted for a coin toss to establish Knaus as champion, Lewis was runner-up and Marshall, AAA champ, all with scores of 200.

ATA trophies were awarded to champion and runner-up in all classes and categories.

Following the singles, a Warm Up Handicap (not included in HAA/HOA) was won by Mitchell Burgin (97); Andrew Herbig was runner-up (95); Peter Walker (3rd/95); Herbert Lewis (4th/94); and Caleb Fischer (5th/94).

SUNDAY

The Farewell Singles opened the program Sunday morning (not included in the HAA/HOA). Zach Nannini prevailed in AAA over Nick Kubasch, Jason Krause, Ryan Glow, Herbert Lewis, Justin Debrie and Caleb Fischer, all finishing without a miss.

Also breaking perfect scores were Kahne Packer (Sub Junior champ); Robert Gropp (Junior champ); Ruben Salinas (Junior Gold champ); Mike Whitaker (Sub Veteran champ) and Mike Dennis (Veteran champ).

HEARTLAND GRAND WINCHESTER HANDICAP

CH	HERBERT LEWIS	99
RU	DARIN DAVIS	98
3RD	PETER WALKER	98
4TH	JASON KRAUSE	98
5TH	PERRY WEINER	97
6TH	NICK KUBASCH	97
7TH	WENDELL LANCE	96
8TH	ROBERT GROPP	96
LD I	HEATHER POWER	98
LD II	SANDRA JO JACK	93
SUB JR	KAHNE PACKER	97
JR	STEWART HODGE	98
JRG	HUNTER SPRUILL	97
SUB VT	TROY HAVERLY	99
VET	ROB TAYLOR	97
SR VET	JOHN HUGHES	96

The Winchester Handicap Championship ended in a tie between Herbert Lewis and Troy Haverly, both with scores of 99. One round of extras earned Lewis the handicap championship and relegated Haverly to Sub Veteran champ.

Scores of 98 placed Darin Davis as event runner-up; Peter Walker (3rd); Jason Krause (4th); Heather Power (Lady 1); and Stewart Hodge (Junior). Top trophies were awarded down 12 places.

HIGH ALL AROUND & HIGH OVER ALL

New this year was the opportunity for the HOA event champion and the HOA champion in each category to shoot off for a 5-day/4-night trophy deer hunt, valued up to \$22,000. The prized trip was donated by the Stan Baker Family and The Rackett Grange and Sporting Preserve. In the final round, David Deitch outshot Gil Palmer for this unique award.

In the All Around, presented by KOLAR, Kentucky shooter Herbert Lewis was champion with 396/400. Lewis is currently a long yardage, Class AAA shooter.

HEARTLAND GRAND HIGH ALL AROUND

CH	HERBERT LEWIS	396
AAA	RICHARD MARSHALL	395
AA	TROY HAVERLY	391
A	DEREK FISCHER	385
B	DARIN DAVIS	379
C	RICHARD THOMPSON	375
D	WES WULF	362
LD I	RAYLEE BISHOP	392
LD II	SANDRA JO JACK	387
SUB JR	KAHNE PACKER	391
JR	GILBERT PALMER	391
JR GOLD	JACK KNAUS	389
SUB VET	DAVID DEITCH	394
VET	ROB TAYLOR	388
SR VET	JOHN HUGHES	387

HEARTLAND GRAND HIGH OVER ALL

CH	JASON KRAUSE	1077
AAA	RYAN GLOW	1077
AA	GAVIN KUCK	1060
A	ZACH BRYANT	1035
B	JAMES PLATSKA	1043
C	DARIN DAVIS	1031
D	PATRICIA TODD	1003
LD I	JENNIFER RUTGER	1052
LD II	SANDRA JO JACK	1024
SUB JR	KAHNE PACKER	1067
JR	GILBERT PALMER	1068
JRG	MITCHELL PIERSON	1056
SUB VET	DAVID DEITCH	1073
VT	DEAN NEUMANN	1056
SR VET	KENNETH JOHNSTON	1048



DAVID DEITCH



He was introduced to shooting as a kid but didn't get seriously into the sport until about age 20. Today he juggles traveling to tournaments as often as his job at a decommissioned uranium plant will allow.

With scores of 395/400, Rick Marshall won the coin toss with Jason Krause for Class AAA.

In the High Over All, presented by White Flyer, Jason Krause was champion over Ryan Glow, both shooters posting 1077/1100.

Darin Davis (Class C); Kahne Packer (Sub Junior); Gilbert Palmer (Junior); Sandra Jo Jack (Lady 2); and

David Dietch (Sub Veteran) all claimed both the HAA and HOA for their respective classes and categories.

BON VOYAGE

As shooters sailed away, plans were already being made for the 2024 Heartland Grand, set to be held on August 19-25. Shooters are encouraged to make reservations early to come shoot at the Stockdale Gun Club and enjoy a week of great competition with the best hospitality offered ashore.