

2023 NORTHEASTERN GRAND AMERICAN

REPORT BY JOSH BUCHIERE

The 38th Annual Northeastern Grand American was held from Wednesday, September 6, to Sunday, September 10, at the New York State Amateur Trapshooting Association Home Grounds in Cicero, New York. The Northeastern Grand was the first Satellite Grand of the 2024 ATA target year and, as a result, attracted many shooters trying to get a head start on gaining targets, as well as All-American Points before the long winter ahead. For many shooters in the northeastern part of the country, this tournament will be the last opportunity to get in registered targets until the following spring. Attendance was up slightly from the previous year with a total of 365 shooters from 21 different states and provinces, and the tournament once again reached a competition factor of 4 for All-American Points.

WEDNESDAY

The shoot started off Wednesday morning at 10am with the Preliminary Singles. Unlike previous years, there was no shooting on Tuesday, and the tournament's 1200 target High Over All started with Event 1. Conditions were ideal in the morning with light winds, mostly clear skies, and temperatures in the high 70s. Three shooters, Herbert Lewis, Nick Hughes, and Brian Luther, all posted perfect scores. After a carryover the following day, Lewis was the event Champion, and Hughes the Class AA winner after prevailing in the carryover for the class trophy. Deborah Ohye-Neilson, Brandon Hood, Urb Womer, and Keith Miranda were high in Lady II, Junior, Veteran, and Senior Veteran categories, all with scores of 99.

Conditions remained good for the Preliminary Handicap but for some reason scores were low, and 94 was the highest score posted. After the conclusion of the day's events, Nick Hughes, Kaiden Warren, and Travis Dann were called to shoot off for Champion. Dann opted to skip the shoot-off and take the Sub Veteran trophy, leaving Hughes and Warren to shoot off for event Champion. After two rounds, Hughes was the event Champion and Warren fell back to take Sub Junior honors. Edwin Johnson was the event runner-up following a score of 93 and one overtime round with Dean Slater, who took 3rd place. John Valenti was the Senior Veteran Champion with the only category score of 93 in the event.

Low light was definitely a factor by the start of the Sportsmen's Doubles, but wind was virtually nonexistent and some good scores were still posted.

Donald Neilson Jr. and Carl Chadwell were high in the event with scores of 97 and, after a carryover the following afternoon, Neilson Jr. was the event Champion, and Chadwell the Sub Veteran winner. Deborah Ohye-Neilson, Lloyd Beecraft, and Sheldon Hostetter were high in the Lady II, Veteran, and Senior Veteran categories, all with second-high scores of 96.

THURSDAY

Attendance increased on Thursday with 170 shooters taking the firing line in the Sportsmen's Singles. Dark skies made for difficult visibility and only Herbert Lewis and Dave McMasters posted perfect scores. After a carryover the following morning, Lewis was the event Champion, and McMasters the Class AA winner. Michael Fox Jr. was the Class AAA winner outright with a 99, and Matt Wylucki the Class A Champion after posting a 99 and winning his carryover with Jonathan Hannahoe, who was the Class A runner-up. Ethan Ferris, Joseph Regan, and Urb Womer were the Sub Junior, Sub Veteran, and Veteran winners, all with scores of 99.

The breeze picked up and skies cleared somewhat for the Sportsmen's Handicap. Herbert Lewis was the event Champion with the line-high score of 96 from 27 yards.

Edwin Johnson took his second straight event runner-up trophy, this time outright with the lone second-high score of 95. Dom Marando was the 3rd place winner with a score of 94, and Todd Hosbach was the Sub Veteran Champion with the same score. This score also earned Hosbach a first-time punch to the 27 yard line.

The breeze diminished but poor lighting was definitely still a factor in the afternoon's Class Doubles. John Kirksey and Lloyd Beecraft were high in the event with scores of 98 and took the Sub Veteran and Veteran trophies outright. Josh Buchiere was the Class AAA Champion with the lone second-high score of 97, and Herbert Lewis was the Class AAA runner-up with a 96. Nicole Hood, Deborah Ohye-Neilson, and John Federici were the Lady I, Lady II, and Senior Veteran winners, all with scores of 96. Donald Neilson Jr. and Sheldon Hostetter were the Sub Veteran and Senior Veteran runner-up, each following 96s.

FRIDAY

Sunlight and low winds made for good conditions on Friday, and scores were up in the Class Singles. Herbert Lewis was the Class AAA Champion with the only non-category 100 straight. Carl Chadwell was the Sub Veteran Champion with a 100 straight and carryover with Robert Wyatt, who took Sub Veteran runner-up. Steve Stella was the Veteran winner and William Compton the Veteran runner-up, each following perfect scores. Urb Womer and Jim Flint were the Class AA Champion and runner-up with scores of 99, and Jason Green was the Class A winner with the same score. Deborah Ohye-Neilson and Paul Shaw were the Lady II and Senior Veteran winners outright, both with scores of 99.



JEFFRAVELLA

Scores of 95 were high in the Caesar Guerini Preliminary Handicap. After the conclusion of the day's program, Jeff Ravella, Robert Moon, and Ron Minor were called to shoot off. After one overtime round, Ravella was the event Champion, Moon the Veteran winner, and Minor the Veteran runner-up. Edwin Johnson took his third straight event runner-up trophy, this time with a score of 94. Terrence Roth was the Sub Veteran Champion outright with a 94. Bo Xu was the Sub Veteran runner-up with the only score of 93 in the event. James Cadigan, Nick Hughes, and Stephen Kruh took 3rd, 4th, and 5th places, with scores of 92.

SATURDAY

BROWNING SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	JOHN KIRKSEY	MD	200
RU	WALTER MADER JR	OH	200
AAA	HERBERT LEWIS	KY	199
AA	EDWIN JOHNSON	NY	199
A	TIMOTHY CORRENTE	NY	197
B	BRENDEN BACKUS	NY	194
C	SHANE HAYWARD	NY	197
D	DOM MARANDO	NY	192
LD1	HEIDI WOMER	NY	194
LD2	DEBORAH OHYE-NEILSON	PA	196
SUB JR	TUCKER NYSTROM	PA	192
JUNIOR	WYATT READLER	PA	199
JR GOLD	COOPER NYSTROM	PA	197
SUB VET	DAVID GONYEAU	NY	197
VET	FRANK PASCOE	PA	196
SR VET	JOHN FEDERICI	RI	199



DAVID GONYEAU

A total of 297 competitors took the firing line Saturday morning for the Northeastern Grand American Browning Singles Championship. Seven shooters made it through the first hundred without a miss, and two ended up straight on the day. Once all scores were in, John Kirksey and Walter Mader Jr. were called to shoot off for the Singles title. Both men made it through the first round straight and would take the line for another round. Mader Jr. let two slip away this round, and Kirksey only missed one, earning him the 2023 Northeastern Grand American Singles Championship, and Mader Jr. took the event runner-up trophy. Herbert Lewis and David Shaeffer Jr. tied for Class AAA Champion with 199s and, after one shoot-off round, Lewis was the Class AAA winner and Shaeffer Jr. the Class AAA runner-up. Edwin Johnson took the Class AA trophy outright with a score of 199. Wyatt Readler took the Junior Champion title with a score of 199, and John Federici was the Senior Veteran winner with the same score. Cooper Nystrom was the Junior Gold Champion with a 197, and David Gonyeau the Sub Veteran winner after winning a shoot-off with Thomas Brooks.

SUNDAY

FIOCCHI DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	JOHN KIRKSEY	MD	100
RU	MICHAEL FONTELLO	DE	99
AAA	DAVID SHAEFFER JR	MD	97
AA	ANDREW BARRETT	MA	97
A	DAVID MCMASTERS	NY	95
B	STEVE STELLA	AZ	94
C	ROBERT RUTTER	NY	91
D	JAMES DRIES	NY	89
LD1	NICOLE HOOD	PA	92
LD2	DEBORAH OHYE-NEILSON	PA	94
SUB JR	ETHAN FERRIS	WV	94
JUNIOR	JOSEPH BRECK IV	PA	94
JR GOLD	COOPER NYSTROM	PA	93
SUB VET	JOSEPH REGAN	NY	95
VET	DAVID CICHELLI	NY	96
SR VET	CLIFF HAAF	NY	96

Overcast skies and cooler temperatures were the forecast for the last day of the tournament. The Fiocchi Doubles Championship started off at 9am with 166 shooters taking the firing line. Wind was virtually nonexistent throughout the day, but the dark skies did make for challenging visibility. Shooting on one of the last squads, John Kirksey turned in the lone 100 straight, capturing his second Championship title of the week. It is worth noting that this is the first time since 2017 that a shooter has been straight in the High All Around going into the Handicap Championship at a tournament in Cicero.



JOHN KIRKSEY

Michael Fontello posted the lone second-high score of 99 and secured the event runner-up trophy. David Shaeffer Jr. was the Class AAA Champion with a 97, and Andrew Barrett was the Class AA winner with the same score. David Cichelli was the Veteran Champion following a 96 and winning his shoot-off with Urb Womer and Dan Gris. Cliff Haaf was the Senior Veteran winner outright with a 96.

WINCHESTER AMMUNITION HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	GARY MCKEOWN	NY	98
RU	THOMAS WALTER JR	NY	97
3RD	DENNIS BOBBETTE	NY	94
4TH	DAVID CORRENTE	NY	93
5TH	DAVID SHAEFFER JR	MD	93
6TH	HERBERT LEWIS	KY	93
7TH	DARRIN COOKE	NY	92
LD1	HEIDI WOMER	NY	88
LD2	DEANNA MORSE	NY	91
SUB JR	KAIDEN WARREN	PA	87
JUNIOR	CADEN LUCIA	MA	90
JR GOLD	AARON LEONE	NY	91
SUB VET	MARK DAIGLE	ME	93
VET	URBAN WOMER	NY	97
SR VET	ANTHONY VALVO	NY	92

In the final event of the shoot, the Winchester Ammunition Handicap Championship, Gary McKeown led the field of 185 with a lone high score of 98 to take the Handicap title outright.



GARY MCKEOWN

Thomas Walter Jr. was the event runner-up with the only non-category score of 97. Urb Womer was the Veteran Champion with a 97 from the back fence. Dennis Bobbette was the 3rd place winner with the only score of 94 in the event, and Dave Corrente was the 4th place winner with a 93 and forfeits by Dave Shaeffer Jr. and Herbert Lewis, who took 5th and 6th places.

HAA & HOA)

HIGH ALL AROUND

CH	URBAN WOMER	NY	389
AAA	DAVID SHAEFFER JR	MD	389
AA	NICKOLAS GIBBS	NH	379
A	JAMES CADIGAN	ON	378
B	THOMAS WALTER JR	NY	373
C	JOSHUA BUCHIERE	NY	367
D	KYLE ROOF	NH	341
LD1	HEIDI WOMER	NY	372
LD2	DEBORAH OHYE-NEILSON	PA	374
SUB JR	ETHAN FERRIS	WV	371
JUNIOR	WYATT READLER	PA	379
JR GOLD	COOPER NYSTROM	PA	378
SUB VET	JOHN KIRKSEY	MD	385
VET	DAN GRIS	ON	385
SR VET	JOHN FEDERICI	RI	379



URB WOMER & HEIDI WOMER

Urb Womer and Dave Shaeffer Jr. tied for the High All Around championship with scores of 389x400. After three overtime rounds of 40, Womer prevailed in the shoot-off and took the High All Around title, which also earned him a spot in the Kolar High All Around shoot-off at the 2024 Grand American. Shaeffer Jr. fell back to take the Class AAA trophy. John Kirksey and Dan Gris were the Sub Veteran and Veteran Champions with second-high scores of 385.

HIGH OVER ALL

CH	HERBERT LEWIS	KY	1155
AAA	LLOYD BEECRAFT	ON	1114
AA	NICK HUGHES	MD	1135
A	EDWIN JOHNSON	NY	1122
B	JAMES CADIGAN	ON	1122
C	JOSHUA BUCHIERE	NY	1089
D	MICHAEL BUMPUS	NY	1073
LD1	HEIDI WOMER	NY	1095
LD2	DEBORAH OHYE-NEILSON	PA	1128
SUB JR	KAIDEN WARREN	PA	1081
JUNIOR	JOSEPH BRECK IV	PA	1100
SUB VET	CARL CHADWELL	MI	1110
VET	URBAN WOMER	NY	1144
SR VET	JOHN FEDERICI	RI	1126



HERBERT LEWIS

Herbert Lewis dominated the High Over All standings, winning the title with a score of 1155x1200, an eleven-target margin over Urb Womer, who took Veteran honors with 1144.

The Northeastern Grand American has long been one of my favorite shoots of the year, and the NYSATA continues to work hard on the overall target presentation, which has seen a significant improvement over the past year. In addition, at the next tournament hosted by the NYSATA, the 2024 Empire Grand American, White Flyer AA Green Top targets will be thrown in an attempt to help with visibility in low light conditions. I hope to see you at the Northeastern Grand American in 2024!