

THE 47TH SPRING GRAND AMERICAN

BY SANDRA JO JACK



The Spring Grand American was held at the Tucson Trap and Skeet Club February 8th through the 18th with the first several days being the Pre Spring Grand and the final six days being the main Spring Grand. The weather was definitely a factor with high winds and cold temperatures leaving many to wonder why the tournament isn't called the Winter Grand. That being said, shooters come to shoot and those that braved the conditions are of hardy stock.

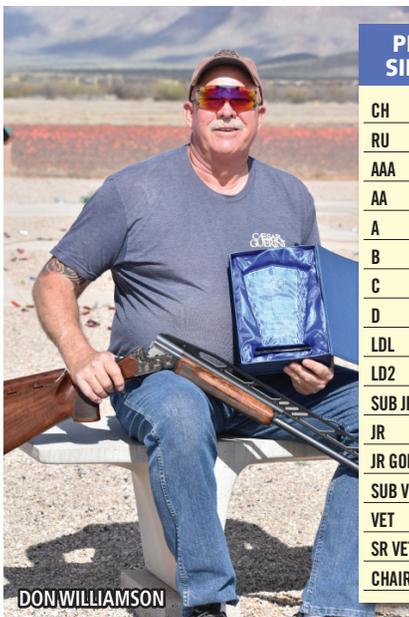
The Western Zone delegates were at the shoot for a meeting and I had the pleasure to talk to some of them along with our 2023 ATA President Ed Wehking of Utah about the upcoming year of shooting.

PRE GRAND SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

The champion of this event is a fine gentleman named Don Williamson (AZ). He is a past president of the Albuquerque Trap Club and broke the lone high score of 199. His gun of choice is a left handed Caesar Guerini Invictus combo. Don started out at age

of 8 as a trap boy, then moved on to be the 1978 ATA Sub Junior champion in Utah. His dad is his biggest fan, always giving him a hard time proudly. Don commented to me that he has made some fantastic friends over the years in our great sport.

PRE GRAND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP



DON WILLIAMSON

PRELIM SPRING GRAND SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	DON WILLIAMSON	199
RU	JASON FOLVAG	198
AAA	CODY TANGSRUD	198
AA	GERRY WILLIAMS	197
A	DAVID BACON LL	195
B	DENNIS REGISTER	193
C	GEORGE HERGET JR	188
D	CHUCK CHRISTENSEN	188
LDL	SOPHIE NOSTROM	192
LD2	KIM GRADY	188
SUB JR	MACKENZIE LUDLOW	182
JR	ROLAND THOMPSON	192
JR GOLD	NONE	
SUB VET	JEFF TRAYER	197
VET	ART PEYTON	198
SR VET	IRVIN EFFINGER	198
CHAIR	ROD TOLMAN	180



LLOYD BEECRAFT

PRELIM SPRING GRAND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	LLOYD BEECRAFT	ON	100
RU	PATRICK LAMONT	MB	99
AAA	JASON KRAUSE	NE	99
AA	JEFF TRAYER	OK	99
A	DAVID WOMMACK	MO	99
B	WALTER ALLEN	AZ	97
C	JOHN GUDA	PA	96
D	MICHAEL SHAW	SD	92
LDL	SOPHIE NOSTROM	AZ	95
LD2	KAREN STINGL	AZ	91
SUB JR	WYATT DEBRIE	NE	97
JR	GREYSON BOLLINGER	NM	97
JR GOLD	CLAY LAUGHLIN	OK	97
SUB VET	BERNIE MERCHLEWITZ	SD	100
VET	BRIAN LARSON	ND	99
SR VET	DOUGLASS SIMS	AZ	96
CHAIR	ROD TOLMAN	MN	76

Lloyd Beecraft, a Veteran shooter from Ontario, Canada battled the winds along with Bernie Merchlewitz (SD) with scores of 100 straight. In the shoot-off Merchlewitz broke scores of 19 and 18 to finish 2nd to Beecrafts 19,19. Targets were dropping almost to the dirt with the winds howling. Just watching this shoot-off gives you respect for these two shooters' target hits.

Lloyd Beecraft used to hunt with a friend at Richport Rod & Gun, he noticed trap shooting going on, gave it a try and of course caught the trap addiction. This was his 5th year at the Spring Grand, traveling 34 hours to Tucson to gain his second Grand Slam. He commented that he likes to measure up to other shooters.

PRE GRAND HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

PRELIM SPRING GRAND HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	ART PEYTON	AB	98
RU	PATRICK LAMONT	MB	98
19-21	KEVEN MARK	SK	94
22-24	JAMES CALDWELL	PA	96
25-26	BOBBY HUBBLE	IN	96
27 YRD	GREGORY JOHNSON	SD	98
LDL	SOPHIE NOSTROM	AZ	96
LD2	KIM GRADY	NM	94
SUB JR	WYATT DEBRIE	NE	95
JR	NONE		
JR GOLD	NONE		
SUB VT	BERNIE MERCHLEWITZ	SD	96
VET	STEVE SHEPHERD	SD	96
SR VET	WILLIAM HIRNING	ID	97
CHAIR	NONE		

Art Peyton AB, was the winner of Event 12 in a shoot-off with Patrick Lamont (MB) and Gregory Johnson (SD), all scoring 98. The shoot-off lasted 4 rounds in the winds and dark shadow casted targets.

Referee Jay Nigbor brought to my attention, as we were watching the shoot-off, Lamont's gun mount with his trigger finger in the straight out position. The finger only goes to the trigger as he calls for the target. A very interesting technique.

PRELIMINARY HAA AND HOA

Only one trophy was handed out in the HAA. 2023 Trapshooting Hall of Fame inductee Patrick Lamont missed only 6 targets for a 394x400 and was the winner. Champion Jason Folvag's (ND) score of 1252x1300 kept him at the top in HOA. Folvag is accustomed to "interesting" weather conditions, as North Dakota shooting can be a challenge at times. He certainly brought his A game to Tucson.

JASON FOLVAG



PRELIM SPRING GRAND HIGH ALL AROUND

CH	PATRICK LAMONT	MB	394
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PRELIM SPRING GRAND HIGH OVERALL

CH	JASON FOLVAG	ND	1252
RU	TJ MAIN	WA	1231
AAA	MIKE GRADY	NM	1229
AA	JIMMY HELLER	AZ	1219
A	DAVE MANSELL	WI	1197
B	MICHAEL SHAW	SD	1175
C	JOHN BLACKHALL	MT	1141
D	RONALD WALLACE	ON	1095
LDL	SOPHIE NOSTROM	AZ	1192
LDLL	TINA MAIN	WA	1137
SUB VET	BERNIE MERCHLITZ	SD	1233
VET	ART PEYTON	AB	1245
SR VET	GERRY WILLIAMS	AZ	1226
SUB JR	CHASE DOBRINSKI	NM	1161

MONDAY

Preliminary Singles and Handicap day gave shooters a warm up for the week to come. Weather was calm and lots of shooters were dialing themselves in for the week to come.





GRAND WEEK

TUESDAY

The Valentines day's events were the Premier Singles and the Prescott Handicap. AAA winner Jason Krause (NE) and Veteran champ Warren Morimoto (CA) both shot perfect 100's out of the 447 shooters.

In the Prescott Handicap Peter Walker (MN) broke 98 to lead all scoring and win the 27 yard trophy. JR Long (TX) was next high on the board with 96 to win the Senior Veteran trophy, while Dave Mansell (WI) broke a 95 to earn the Sub Veteran prize.

I had the pleasure to meet mom, Wendy Pryor from Oklahoma on the trap line as she was watching her family of 5 shoot singles. Dad Brad, Clancy (8), Marshall (10), Brody (14) and Kooper (12) had their own full "Pryor" squad showing their skills shooting singles. Clancy was competing in his first ATA keeping his eyes on the targets along with glances to his dad next to him. If an inspiration trophy was to be handed out, this squad would get the award.

WEDNESDAY

In the Yuma Doubles the high score of the day was a lone 100 claimed by champion Patrick Stacey. The Trapshooting Hall of Fame member shot amazing to be sure, but despite the overcast skies and the blanket of snow on the ground Cody Tangsrud finished just one

bird behind with a score of 99. Ten other shooters broke scores of 98.

The Pleasant Valley Handicap's highest scores were 97. Patrick Lamont and Peter Walker posted those scores and after a one round shoot off Lamont was the winner. Joe Sudbury (UT) posted a 95 to lead the way for Senior Veterans, while Stuart Hart (OK) and David Landwerlen (AZ) each carded 94 to win Sub Veteran and 25-26 yards.

THURSDAY

The Tucson Singles Class Championship saw a nicer day with no clouds, a slight breeze, but was still on the cooler side. Twenty One shooters were able to break scores of 100 with another twenty five breaking scores of 99. David Shaeffer Jr of Maryland broke 200 straight in the carry over to claim the AAA trophy. David Landwerlen broke 100 and needed another 50 to secure the AA class trophy, while Darvin Thomas posted a 99 and two perfect overtime rounds to win A class. Toby Kandt (CO) broke 99 to win B class and 97s were high in C and D classes, with John Blackhall (MT) and AJ Marcelli (CA) taking the trophies.

The Tucson Doubles Class Championship had entries of 474. Patrick Stacey was declared the AAA winner with 100 and 48 in the carry over with Cody Tangsrud. Dale Stockdale, one of this year's Hall of

Fame inductees also broke a 100 straight, but elected to take the Veteran trophy outright. Sophie Nostrum broke 97 to lead the Lady 1 shooters, while Pam Wright (UT) broke 94 and won her carry over to claim the Lady 2 trophy.

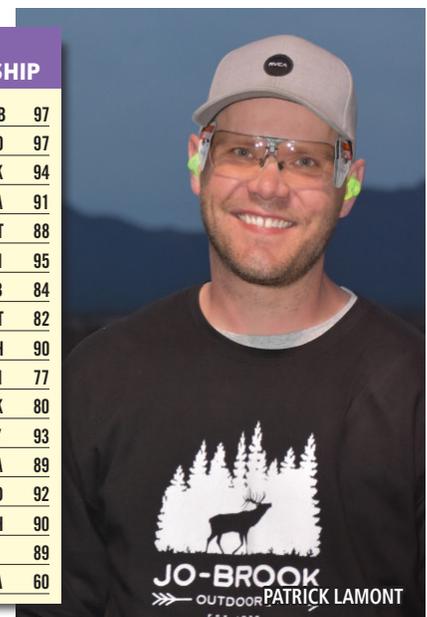
FIOCCHI DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

When the Microphones have to be laid down in order to shoot for the day, you know you are in for a treat. Steady winds of 40 mph+ made for very tough shooting conditions. It was really tough, but fun to see if you could hit both targets or even one. There is always that person that gets to show off in a positive way and on this day there were actually two. Patrick Lamont Champion and Runner Up Bill

Andrews (CO) shot 97's and then 20 to 18 in the shoot off. The conditions were definitely less than ideal and to have shot 97 showed some amazing ability, both physically and mentally.

The Event 22 Preliminary Handicap was sponsored by Caesar Guerini and had a few holes on the squads from cancellations. But that did not stop Champion Sub Junior Lilian Russell (CO) and Veteran Doug Stanek (IA) from shooting the high scores. They were two tough cookies to shoot 95s in the winds. Runner-up Tate Barwald WI, was not far behind with a fantastic 94. At the end of the day every seat was full in the club house with lots of stories to be told about the dancing, swishing, and stepping targets.

SPRING GRAND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP			
CH	PATRICK LAMONT	MB	97
RU	BILL ANDREWS	CO	97
AAA	PATRICK STACEY	OK	94
AA	BERNARDINO MANUEL	CA	91
A	BRET PREESHL	MT	88
B	BRIAN STOA	WI	95
C	ROD HYMAS	AB	84
D	JOHN BLACKHALL	MT	82
LD1	ELIZABETH TERNES	OH	90
LD2	SANDRA JO JACK	WI	77
SUB JR	BRODY PRYOR	OK	80
JUNIOR	JACK HOLLAND	KY	93
JR GOLD	DEVIN HUGENOT	CA	89
SUB VET	MICHAEL KEMPEL	ND	92
VET	MICHAEL BLAISDELL	NH	90
SR VET	CHARLES BICKLE	IL	89
CHAIR	WILLIAM ROSS	PA	60



THE BROWNING SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

This event was Sponsored by Browning and the shooter count went up to 583. The day brought in 4 scores of 200's. Junior gold Devin Huguenot (CA) won the shoot off with another 25 to win in one round. As Devin was walking off of line with his win his dad/coach Tom had tears of proudness in his eyes. A friend of Devin turned him on to trapshooting and his thoughts of how "peaceful it is" keeps him shooting. Devin won the Junior Gold Doubles Championship event also. David Shaeffer Jr took the Runner Up trophy, Bob Felber (SD) claimed the Veteran trophy and Luke Bower (NM) took the Junior trophy. Jade Chapman (NE) was the Lady 1 winner with 198 and Sandra Jo Jack (WI) took home the Lady 2 trophy with 197. Donald

DEVIN HUGUENOT & DAD TOM



Budd (KS) broke 199 to secure the Sub Veteran award, while Craig Blank shot the same score to win Senior Veteran. Wyatt Debrie (NE) was the Sub Junior winner with 197 and Audric Scheidel broke 199 and 175 straight in the shoot off to win the Junior Gold title. Rod Tolman (MN) broke 189 to win the Chair category.

SPRING GRAND SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	DEVIN HUGUENOT	CA	200
RU	DAVID SHAEFFER JR	MD	200
AAA	SCOTT OBENCHAIN	CO	199
AA	JASON WEAVER	AB	199
A	THOMAS DARVIN	AZ	198
B	ELLIE ALVARADO	CA	197
C	CARL BOHNE	NE	195
D	DENNIS GEARY	AK	195
LD1	JADE CHAPMAN	NE	198
LD2	SANDRA JO JACK	WI	197
SUB JR	WYATT DEBRIE	NE	197
JR	LUKE BOWER	NM	200
JR GOLD	AUDRIC SCHEIDEL	CA	199
SUB VET	DONALD BUDD	KS	199
VET	BOB FELBER	SD	200
SR VET	CRAIG BLANK	OH	199
CHAIR	ROD TOLMAN	MN	189

THE WINCHESTER HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

SPRING GRAND HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

CH	STACY PEERY	WA	100
RU	NADER BOU NAJM	CA	99
3RD	TAD NICHOLSON	OK	99
4TH	BRET PREESHL	MT	97
5TH	SCOTT ABO	ID	97
6TH	DENNIS JOHNSON	SD	96
7TH	TATE WILLIAM HEDRICK	OH	96
LD1	KELLY PARASIDA	OH	94
LD2	VICKI PARLE	MO	93
SUB JR	WYATT DEBRIE	NE	95
JR	COLE HENNING	IA	98
JR GOLD	BRAYDEN BLISS	OK	93
SUB VET	GERALD GEORGE BAUER	MN	98
VET	DAVID OLSON	MN	96
SR VET	JOE SUDBURY SR	UT	98
CHAIR	WILLIAM ROSS	PA	96

STACY PEERY



Event 24, The Winchester Ammunition Handicap Championship closed Grand Week with a 20.5 yard Lady 1 shooter breaking the only 100 straight in this event. Stacy Peery (WA) had a big smile on her face as I took a photo of her leaning against the trap house telling me this was her first 100 straight in any event. What a perfect day to run 100 and to be on top of the championship board. Her husband was also gleaming with pride next to her. Congrats to Stacy shining above the 503 trap shooters who participated in the event. Not far behind Stacy were Nader Bou Najm (CA) and Tad Nicholson (OK) with 99s. Bou Najm broke 24 in the shoot off to claim the Runner Up trophy, with Nicholson coming in 3rd. In the Lady 1 shoot off of 94's between Sophie Nstrom (AZ) and Kelly Parasida (OH) the outcome of the winner could have been different. Referee Jay Nigbor told me that Kelly chipped a target the scorekeeper and he did not see, but

Sophie, the well respected shooter that she is, spoke up and said Kelly hit it. This call gave Kelly the lead to be Lady 1 champion.

KELLY PARASIDA





HAA AND HOA

Patrick Lamont won both the High All Around as well as the High Over All. His HOA total for the week was 1066x1100 and HAA total of 391x400. Robert Lamont, Patrick's dad was by his side at the shoot for

all of the events. Cole Henning (IA) had the next highest score on the board with 388 to win the Junior trophy. In the HOA Henning and Dale Stockdale were next high with scores of 1054 to secure Junior and Veteran wins.



COLE HENNING

SPRING GRAND HIGH OVERALL		
CH	PATRICK LAMONT	MB 1066
AAA	CODY TANGSRUD	ND 1050
AA	JUSTIN DEBRIE	NE 1032
A	DAVE MANSELL	WI 1015
B	MICHAEL SHAW	SD 993
C	JOHN NICHOLSON	OK 985
D	DONALD HANCOCK	BC 958
LD1	SOPHIE NOSTROM	AZ 1013
LD2	PAM WRIGHT	UT 980
SUB JR	WYATT DEBRIE	NE 998
JUNIOR	COLE HENNING	IA 1054
JR GOLD	CLAY LAUGHLIN	OK 1034
SUB VET	BERNIE MERCHLEWITZ	SD 1036
VET	DALE STOCKDALE	IA 1054
SR VET	TIM ROBB	AZ 1021
CHAIR	WILLIAM ROSS	PA 923

SPRING GRAND HIGH ALL AROUND		
CH	PATRICK LAMONT	MB 391
AAA	CODY TANGSRUD	ND 385
AA	BILL ANDREWS	CO 383
A	DARVIN THOMAS	AZ 377
B	TAD NICHOLSON	OK 373
C	AUSTIN KINDER	UT 365
D	DONALD HANCOCK	BC 362
LD1	SOPHIE NOSTROM	AZ 376
LD2	SANDRA JO JACK	WI 361
SUB JR	WYATT DEBRIE	NE 365
JUNIOR	COLE HENNING	IA 388
JR GOLD	DEVIN HUGUENOT	CA 381
SUB VET	BERNIE MERCHLEWITZ	SD 380
VET	MICHAEL BLAISDELL	NH 382
SR VET	TIM ROBB	AZ 368
CHAIR	WILLIAM ROSS	PA 342

Bill and LeeAnn Martin donated \$30,000 to the shoot as a Martin Lewis Challenge. The Lewis donation is appreciated and fun for all. Thank you Bill and LeeAnn! With my best intentions to attend the next shoot at the Tucson Trap & Skeet Club, I will see you there at one of the finest fields to shoot on.

SIDE NOTE

New York style targets have been thrown at this club for sometime now. Orange dome, New York style and all orange targets are up for a vote at the TTSC. If you are interested in a visible target that shows up to your liking, please take the time to cast your vote.