



The 20th annual Empire Grand American was hosted by the NYSATA in Cicero, New York, from Wednesday, May 8, to Sunday, May 12, 2024. The Empire Grand is the first of four major tournaments held at the NYSATA home grounds this year, including the Northeastern Grand American held in early September. The program for the shoot consisted of a total of 1300 program targets, 300 each day Wednesday-Friday and 200 on Saturday and Sunday. The NYSATA for the first time threw White Flyer Green Top AA targets for the duration of the shoot.

Wednesday

The first day of the tournament started Wednesday morning at 10 am. Shortly after shooters took the firing line, a

strong west wind picked up, making for wild targets throughout the day. Five shooters, Frank Pascoe, Michael Fox Jr, Michael Blaisdell, Urb Womer, and Robert Edwards, turned in high scores of 97 in the Warm-Up Singles. After a carryover the following day, Pascoe was the event Champion, Fox Jr the Class AA Champion, Blaisdell the Veteran winner, and Edwards the Senior Veteran Champion. Clare Schaffer was the Lady I winner and Paul Rapoli the Class A Champion, each with second-high scores of 95. David Gonyeau was the Sub Veteran winner with a 94 and a carryover win over David DeGregorio. Joseph Macewicz was the Class B Champion with a 94 after winning a carryover with Donald Alderson.

The wind gained strength by the start of the Warm-Up Handicap, and scores were extremely low. Michael Bumpus

was the event Champion with the lone high score of 92. Nicole Hood was the



Channing Garrett

2024 Empire Grand American

//// by joshua buchiere



Lady I winner with the only score of 91. Andrew Goodwin and Robert Edwards



Frank Pascoe

were the Junior and Senior Veteran winners with scores of 88. Channing Garrett took his Sub Junior category with an 87. Clare Schaffer was the event runner-up outright with a score of 85.

The wind subsided some for the afternoon's Warm-Up Doubles, but heavy cloud cover moved in making visibility extremely difficult. Frank Pascoe, Nicole Hood, and Kaiden Warren were high in the event with scores of 94 and, after a carryover the next day, Pascoe was the event Champion, Hood the Lady I winner, and Warren the Sub Junior Champion. Keith Miranda was the Senior Veteran winner with a 92 and a carryover win over Sheldon Hostetter. Thomas Walter Jr and Michael Blaisdell were the Class B and Veteran winners with scores of 91.

Thursday

Thursday was the start of the 1000 target High Over All at the Empire Grand American and, as a result, attendance was up from the previous day. In the Empire Singles, John Farina led the field of 151 shooters with the lone 100 straight, earning him the event Champion title without need for a carryover. Brandon Hood, Allisen Reese, Lorri Bumsted Valois, Curtis Robbins, and William Compton were the winners in Junior, Lady I, Lady II, Sub Veteran, and Veteran categories, all with scores of 99. Justin Hood was the Class AA Champion with the only non-category score of 99 in the event. Deborah Ohye-Neilson, Vincent Barranco, and Kenneth Fagnani were the Class AAA, Class A, and Senior Veteran winners, each with 98s.



Deborah Ohye-Neilson & John Farina

Thomas Walter Jr led the field of 129 in the Empire Handicap with the lone high score of 96 from 22 1/2 yards and was the event Champion. John Farina was the Sub Veteran winner with the lone second-high score of 95. Kenneth Woodworth was the event runner-up with a 94 and one overtime round with Guy Persico Jr, who took event 3rd place. Christopher McEwen and John Cook were the event 4th and 5th place winners with scores of 91.

Frank Pascoe posted the lone high score of 97 in the Empire Doubles and took event Champion. John Farina and Edwin Johnson were the Sub Veteran



Tom Walter Jr.

and Class B winners with 96s. Nicole Hood was the Lady I winner with the only score of 95 in the event. Josh Buchiere, Greg Tartick, Steven Haynes, Joseph Breck IV, Michael Blaisdell, and Jerome Stefkovich were the Class AAA, Class AA, Class A, Junior, Veteran, and Senior Veteran winners, all with scores of 94.

Friday

Four shooters posted perfect scores Friday morning in the Class Singles Championship. After a carryover the following day, Samuel Leienecke was the Class AAA winner, Daniel Fadden Class AAA runner-up. Katelynn Decker was the Lady I Champion, and Deborah Ohye-Neilson the Lady II winner outright following their perfect scores. Edwin Johnson was the Class AA winner with a 99, and John Kirksey the Sub Veteran Champion with the same score and a carryover win over James Flint, who took Sub Veteran runner-up. Nicole Hood was the Lady I runner-up with a score of 99. Jeffrey Ravello, Jonathan Hannahoe, and Salvatore Schiavo were the Class A, Class B, and Class C winners, each with 98s. Brandon Hood, Frank Pascoe, and Alex Fischer took Champion in their respective Junior, Veteran, and Senior Veteran categories, all with scores of 98.

Difficult lighting made for challenging visibility in the Caesar Guerini Preliminary Handicap. Alex Tucker posted the lone high score of 96 from 21 yards and was the event Champion. Edwin Johnson and Raymond Bagley Jr were the event runner-up and Veteran winners, each with scores of 95. TJ Calvaruso and Vijay Puran took Champion in the Junior and Sub Veteran categories with scores of 93.

Poor lighting and inconsistent targets kept scores low in the Class Doubles Championship. Brandon Hood turned in an impressive score of 99, earning him the Junior Champion trophy by a two-target margin over

Singles Championship

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|----|-----|
| Champion | Nicole Hood | PA | 200 |
| RU | Peter Eaton | NH | 198 |
| AAA | Samuel Leiendecke | ND | 197 |
| AA | Nickolas Gibbs | NH | 197 |
| A | Christopher McEwen | NY | 194 |
| B | Paul Kinson | ON | 193 |
| C | Robert Rutter | NY | 195 |
| D | Steve Smith | NY | 192 |
| LD1 | Katelynn Decker | PA | 198 |
| LD2 | Deborah Ohye-Neilson | PA | 199 |
| Sub Jr | Xander Wisniewski | OH | 193 |
| Junior | Tyler O'Connor | NY | 195 |
| Jr Gold | Michael Bumpus | NY | 190 |
| Sub Vet | John Farina | FL | 199 |
| Veteran | Urban Womer | NY | 195 |
| Senior Vet | Cliff Haaf | NY | 195 |

Doubles Championship

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|----|-----|
| Champion | Michael Blaisdell | NH | 100 |
| RU | David Corrente | NY | 93 |
| AAA | Justin Slater | PA | 92 |
| AA | Steven Haynes | NH | 93 |
| A | Louis Diprete | RI | 89 |
| B | Dennis Bobbette | NY | 93 |
| C | Gary Hoysradt | NY | 88 |
| D | James Warren Jr | PA | 88 |
| LD1 | Clare Schaffer | PA | 97 |
| LD2 | Deborah Ohye-Neilson | PA | 86 |
| Sub Jr | Channing Garrett | TN | 93 |
| Junior | Brandon Hood | PA | 91 |
| Jr Gold | Michael Bumpus | NY | 81 |
| Sub Vet | John Kirksey | MD | 95 |
| Veteran | Urban Womer | NY | 95 |
| Senior Vet | Sheldon Hostetter | PA | 95 |

Handicap Championship

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|----|----|
| Champion | Thad Blaisdell | VT | 96 |
| RU | Justin Slater | PA | 94 |
| 3rd | Randy Bergery | NY | 91 |
| 4th | Thomas Kennedy | NY | 90 |
| 5th | Alan Morse | NY | 90 |
| 6th | Salvatore Barone | NY | 89 |
| 7th | James Warren Jr | PA | 88 |
| LD1 | Katelynn Decker | PA | 89 |
| LD2 | Deborah Ohye-Neilson | PA | 92 |
| Sub Jr | Quinlan Degraff | VA | 93 |
| Junior | Tyler O'Connor | NY | 90 |
| Jr Gold | Marshall Roof | NH | 90 |
| Sub Vet | Cam Zuller | NY | 94 |
| Veteran | Michael Lane | NY | 86 |
| Senior Vet | Robert Bredniak | PA | 92 |



the rest of the field. Michael Blaisdell and Frank Pascoe were the Veteran Champion and runner-up with respective scores of 97 and 96. John Kirksey was the Sub Veteran winner outright following a 96. Justin Slater and Josh Buchiere were Champion and runner-up in Class AAA with scores of 95 and 93. Nickolas Gibbs and Urb Womer were the Class AA Champion and runner-up with scores of 94 and 93.

Saturday

Saturday started off cool and cloudy for



Justin Slater & Josh Buchiere

the Empire Grand American Singles Championship, but as the day went on the sun began to break through the heavy cloud cover. A brief downpour resulted in shooters being called off the firing line for a short period during the end of the morning hundred. Only four shooters out of the field of 248 made it through the first hundred without dropping a target, and only one remained straight. Nicole Hood posted the lone 200 straight on the day, her career first double century, earning her the Empire Grand American Singles Championship without need



Alex Tucker

for a shoot-off. John Farina and Deborah Ohye-Neilson were the Sub Veteran and Lady II winners with the only scores of 199 in the event. Peter Eaton was the event runner-up with a 198, and Katelynn Decker was the Lady I winner with the same score. Samuel Leiendecke and Justin Slater tied for Class AAA Champion with scores of 197. After one overtime round,



Nicole Hood

High All Around

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|----|-----|
| Champion | Justin Slater | PA | 383 |
| AAA | Katelynn Decker | PA | 375 |
| AA | Clare Schaffer | PA | 373 |
| A | Tyler O'Connor | NY | 367 |
| B | Gary Hoysradt | NY | 370 |
| C | Quinlan Degraff | VA | 366 |
| D | Salvatore Barone | NY | 361 |
| LD1 | Nicole Hood | PA | 379 |
| LD2 | Deborah Ohye-Neilson | PA | 377 |
| Sub Jr | Channing Garrett | TN | 370 |
| Junior | Joseph Breck IV | PA | 372 |
| Jr Gold | Aaron Leone | NY | 352 |
| Sub Vet | Robert Rutter | NY | 381 |
| Veteran | Michael Blaisdell | NH | 378 |
| Senior Vet | Sheldon Hostetter | PA | 374 |

High Over All

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|----|-----|
| Champion | John Farina | FL | 936 |
| AAA | Frank Pascoe | PA | 912 |
| AA | Urban Womer | NY | 921 |
| A | Ethan Ferris | WV | 894 |
| B | Joseph Breck IV | PA | 914 |
| C | Kenneth Woodworth | NY | 900 |
| D | James Warren Jr | PA | 887 |
| LD1 | Nicole Hood | PA | 927 |
| LD2 | Deborah Ohye-Neilson | PA | 918 |
| Sub Jr | Channing Garrett | TN | 911 |
| Junior | Brandon Hood | PA | 924 |
| Jr Gold | Aaron Leone | NY | 617 |
| Sub Vet | James Flint | NY | 913 |
| Veteran | Michael Blaisdell | NH | 929 |
| Senior Vet | Sheldon Hostetter | PA | 909 |



Michael Blaisdell

Leiendecke was the AAA Champion and Slater the AAA runner-up. Nickolas Gibbs was the Class AA winner outright with a score of 197. Tyler O'Connor, Urb Womer, and Cliff Haaf were the Junior, Veteran, and Senior Veteran winners, each with scores of 195.

Sunday

The final day of the shoot started off Sunday morning at 9am with the Empire Grand American Doubles Championship. Michael Blaisdell turned in a 100 straight to lead the rest of the field by a three-target margin, earning him the Empire Grand American Doubles Championship without need for a shoot-off. Clare Schaffer was the Lady I winner with the lone second-high score of 97. John Kirksey, Urb Womer, and Sheldon Hostetter were the Sub Veteran, Veteran, and Senior Veteran winners, all with 95s. Following a shoot-off with Dennis Bobbette and a forfeit by Steven Haynes, Dave Corrente was the event runner-up with a 93. Haynes and Bobbette fell back to take Class AA and Class B Champion trophies. Channing Garrett was the Sub Junior winner outright with a 93. Justin Slater and Josh Buchiere were the Class AAA Champion and AAA runner-up with scores of 92 and two overtime rounds.

Lighting was good but scores overall were very low in the final event of the

shoot, the Empire Grand American Handicap Champion. Thad Blaisdell, shooting on the last squad of the event, came in with the lone high score of 96 and took the Handicap Championship title by a two-target margin over the rest of the field. Justin Slater was the event runner-up with a 94, and Cam Zuller was the Sub Veteran winner with the same score. Quinlan DeGraff was the Sub Junior Champion with the only score of 93 in the event. Deborah Ohye-Neilson and Robert Bredniak were the Lady II and Senior Veteran winners each following scores of 92.

HAA & HOA

Justin Slater took the High All Around Championship with a score of 383x400, a two-target lead over Robert Rutter, who was the Sub Veteran Champion with 381. John Farina led the 1000 target High Over All with a score of 936x1000. Closest to him were Micheal Blaisdell and Nicole Hood, who took Veteran and Lady I titles with scores of 929 and 927.

The NYSATA will host three other major tournaments in Cicero this year: the New York State Shoot from June 26-30, the ATA Eastern Zone from July 18-21, and the Northeastern Grand American from September 4-8. I hope to see you in attendance! ■



Thad Blaisdell

