

2024 SOUTHERN GRAND AMERICAN

//// by josh buchiere

at Silver Dollar

The 44th annual Southern Grand American was held at the Silver Dollar Shooters Club in Odessa, Florida, from Sunday, March 10, through Sunday, March 17, 2024. The Silver Dollar Shooters Club is the largest trapshooting club in the state of Florida, as well as one of the largest in the entire southeast region of the country. Attendance at this Satellite Grand was up from 2023, with a total of 647 shooters from 43 different states and provinces. In addition, a contingency of Brazilian ATA members made the journey to the Silver Dollar this year. The shoot program consisted of 200 targets each day for the duration of the tournament for a total of 1600 targets. The final 1400 targets from Monday on counted for All-American Points. The shoot normally runs on a format of 10 banks and a total of 20 program traps. This year, however, due to the increased attendance, shoot management made the decision to open up an additional four traps for the Championship events.

Sunday

The first day of the Southern Grand American started out at 9am with the Sunday Preliminary Singles. A chilly breeze and hazy light made for low

scores, and no shooters out of the field of 226 turned in a perfect score in singles. Caleb Fischer, Orion Cooper, William Alfree, and Steve Ebsen were high in the event with scores of 99, and took Class AAA, Junior, Veteran, and Sub Veteran Champion trophies.

The lighting improved but the wind remained strong by the start of the Sunday Preliminary Handicap. Brandon Stahl, shooting from 22 yards, led the field of 220 with the lone high score of 95 and was the event Champion. Gavin Wulf and Thomas Green were the Sub Junior and Sub Veteran winners in the event with second high scores of 94.

Monday

Monday was the first day at the Southern Grand American that counted for All-American Points, and attendance was up from the previous day. A cold and swirling wind made for chilly conditions in the Monday Preliminary Handicap and, once again, scores were very low. Russell Lillard Jr turned in the lone high score of 95 from 22 yards and was the event Champion without need for a shootoff. Jared Williams was the event runner-up with a 94, and Carl Chadwell was the Sub Veteran winner with the same score. Shane Platt took the Veteran

category trophy outright with a score of 93. Jim Walker II took Sub Veteran runner-up after a 93 and one overtime round with John Farina.

The wind was still a factor but had significantly diminished by the time the Monday Preliminary Doubles had started. Jack Knaus and Gavin Kuck were high in the event with scores of 98 and were the Junior and Junior Gold category winners. Wyatt Debie was the Sub Junior winner with a score of 97, and Carl Chadwell the Sub Veteran winner with the same score and a carryover win over John Farina. Three Veteran category shooters, Tank Lunsford, Louis DiPrete, and Mark Isner, tied for the category trophy with 96s. After a carryover the following morning, Lunsford was the Veteran Champion and DiPrete the Veteran runner-up.

Tuesday

Tuesday morning started off cool and clear, but temperatures quickly rose into the upper 70s, making for a comfortable day of shooting. In the first event of the day, the Tuesday Preliminary Doubles, Richard Marshall Jr and Jack Knaus were high in the event with scores of 99 and took Class AAA and Junior Gold trophies for their scores. Deborah Ohye-Neilson





was the Lady II Champion, and Jacob Duren the Junior Gold runner-up, each with second high scores of 98. Frank Pascoe was the Veteran Champion with a 97 and, after winning a carryover with Tank Lunsford.

The beautiful weather made for a number of high scores in the Brady Duren Singles Tuesday afternoon. In all, 19 shooters out of the field of 338 turned in perfect scores, and trophy winners with 100 straights are as follows: Richard Marshall Jr (Class AAA Champion), Zachari Nannini (Class AAA runner-up), Justin Debie (Class AA Champion), Gavin Kuck (Junior Champion), Brady Duren (Junior runner-up), Jack Knaus (Junior Gold Champion), Cole Henning (Junior Gold runner-up), William Wallis (Senior Veteran Champion), Jake Jacobs (Senior Veteran runner-up), Steven Fuller (Veteran Champion), Urb Womer (Veteran runner-up), James Flint (Sub Veteran Champion), and Carl Chadwell (Sub Veteran runner-up).

Wednesday

Wednesday is the start of the High Over All at the Southern Grand and, as a result, attendance was up significantly. A total of 430 shooters took the firing line for the Class Singles Championship and, once again, 19 turned in perfect scores and the winners with perfect scores are as follows: Matt Trammell (Class AAA Champion), Herbert Lewis (Class AAA runner-up), Brandon Hood (Junior Champion), Gavin Kuck (Junior runner-up), Jack Knaus (Junior Gold Champion), Cole Henning (Junior Gold runner-up), Jennifer Rutger (Lady I Champion), Deborah Ohye-Neilson (Lady II Champion), Kay Ohye (Senior Veteran Champion), Tank Lunsford (Veteran Champion), James Flint (Sub Veteran Champion), and Carl Chadwell (Sub Veteran runner-up). Nine shooters tied for Class AA with scores of 99, and, after a carryover, Jon Zadzora was the Class AA Champion. Treavor Lance also

broke a 99 and was the Class A winner after a carryover.

The clouds rolled in and visibility was difficult for the Wednesday Preliminary Handicap, and in spite of the relative lack of wind, scores were down. Jennifer Rutger and Robert Morgan tied for event Champion with scores of 97 and were called to shoot off at the conclusion of the event. After one overtime round, Rutger was the event Champion and Morgan fell back to take Champion in the Senior Veteran category. Zachari Nannini was the event runner-up with a 96 and a shootoff win over Beau Douglas, who took event 3rd place. Jerry Dunford took the top spot in the Veteran category with a score of 96 and a forfeit by Rob Taylor, who took the category runner-up trophy. Following scores of 95, Urb Womer and Thomas Galloway Jr took event 4th and 5th places after one shoot-off round. Elaina McCarthy was the Lady I winner outright with a 95, and Eric Wheary the Sub Veteran Champion with the same score and a shootoff win over John Spangler, who took category runner-up honors.

Thursday

Conditions Thursday morning for the Andrew Fieg Handicap were excellent, with light wind and blue skies. As is typically the case at the Silver Dollar, scores for the morning Handicap events are lower than those shot in the afternoon, and this event was no exception, with scores of 96 being high for the event. John Farina, Ian Woods, Jerry Cloutier, Adolfo Milani, Randy Douez, and Jerry Dunford were called to shoot off for event Champion at the conclusion of the day's events. Dunford opted to skip the shoot-off to take the Veteran Champion trophy, leaving the other five to shoot off for the title. After one overtime round, Farina was the event Champion, Cloutier the Sub Veteran Champion, Milani the Sub Veteran runner-up, and Woods





John Farina

the Junior Gold Champion. Event runner-up through 8th places were all taken with scores of 95 and, after one shoot-off round, Russell Slaby was the event runner-up, Gary Hoysradt event 3rd place, Zach Bryant event 4th place, Steven Ross Jr event 5th place, Michael Gooch event 6th place, Aaron Willoughby event 7th place, and Carl Chadwell was the 8th and final place winner.

In the afternoon's Joseph Breck Doubles, Mitchel Loveless II led all shooters in the event with the lone 100 straight and was the Class AAA Champion. Joseph Charnigo was the Class AAA runner-up with the only non-category score of 99 in the event. Tyler Honnold and Abigail Malecha were the Junior and Lady I winners outright, each following scores of 99. Ethan Ledford, Jack Knaus, and Cole Henning tied for the Junior Gold category with 99s. After a carryover, Ledford was the Junior Gold Champion, and Knaus the Junior Gold runner-up. Rob Taylor and Mark Isner were the Champion and runner-up in the Veteran category with scores of 99 and a carryover. George Pappas and Ryan Ramsay took Champion in Class AA and Class A, each with scores of 98.

Friday

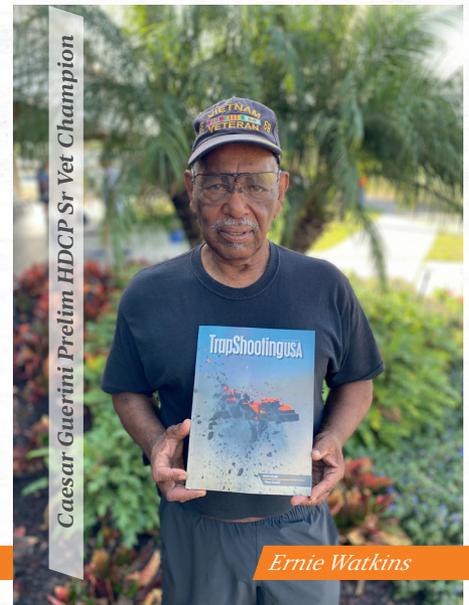
Temperatures warmed up into the low 80s for Friday at the Southern Grand, and the competition heated up as well! In the morning's Doubles Class Championship, two Junior Gold shooters, Ethan Ledford and Jack Knaus, led the field of 386 with 100 straights. After a carryover, Ledford was the Junior Gold Champion, and Knaus the Junior Gold runner-up. This 100 straight was Ledford's career first perfect



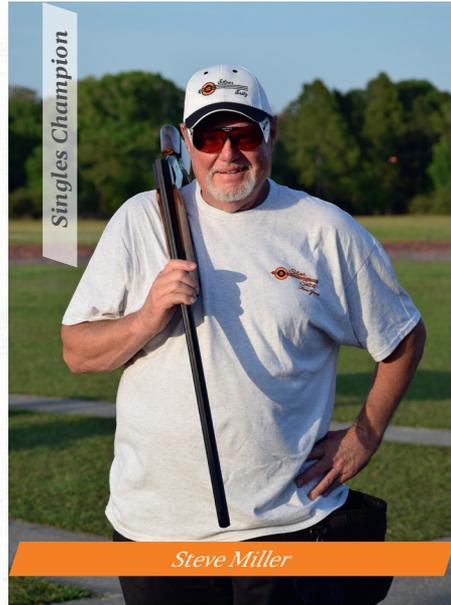
Ethan Ledford

score in Doubles. Mitchel Loveless II once again took the Class AAA title outright, this time with a score of 99. Brady Duren and Carl Chadwell were the Junior and Sub Veteran winners, each following scores of 99. Elizabeth Ternes was the Lady I winner with a 98, and Richard Milbert was the Veteran winner with the same score. Michael Fontello was the Class AA Champion with a 98 and carryover with Caleb Lindstrom, who took Class AA runner-up. Thomas Galloway Jr was the Class A winner without need for a carryover following his score of 98. Herbert Lewis, Zachari Nannini, Richard Marshall Jr, Harlan Campbell Jr, and David Shaeffer Jr, all tied for Class AAA runner-up with 98s and, after a carryover win, Lewis took the trophy.

In the second event of the day, the Caesar Guerini Preliminary Handicap, Jack Knaus turned in a 99 from 27 yards, the highest Handicap score of the week, and took event Champion without need for a shoot-off. John E "Ernie" Watkins came in on the last squad with the lone second high score of 98 and was the Senior Veteran Champion. David Shaeffer Jr was the event runner-up with a 97 and a forfeit by Richard Marshall Jr, who took event 3rd place.



Ernie Watkins



Izaak Zihlman was the Junior Champion with a 97 and one overtime round with Gavin Kuck, who took the Junior runner-up trophy. Matt Trammell took event 4th place with the only non-category score of 96 in the event. Ethan Ledford, Frank Pascoe, and Jim Walker II took Champion in Junior Gold, Veteran, and Sub Veteran categories, all with scores of 96.

Saturday

Saturday morning started out foggy and humid for the Singles Championship, but as the morning went on, the fog lifted but the skies remained overcast throughout the day. The lack of wind in the morning made for great shooting conditions, and 21 shooters out of the field of 487 made it through the first hundred without dropping a target. The wind did pick up in the afternoon and out of the 21 perfect scores in the morning, only three shooters, Steven Miller, Michael Fontello, and Jack Knaus, would remain straight on the day. After the last squad cleared the firing line in the afternoon, first call was made for shootoffs and a sizable crowd gathered to watch the overtime action. Miller, Fontello, and Knaus were called to the trap in front of the clubhouse for

what most onlookers expected would be a lengthy championship shootoff; however, it was not to be. Fontello dropped a target on his first and last posts, and Knaus let one go on his third for scores of 23 and 24. Steven Miller was the only one to make it through the box straight, and this overtime win earned him the Southern Grand American Singles Championship title. Fontello fell back to take the event runner-up spot, and Knaus the Junior Gold category title. Zachari Nannini was the Class AAA Champion with a 199 and forfeits by Aaron Willoughby and David Shaeffer Jr. Two Brazilian shooters, Carlos Zuchi and Fernando Zorzete tied for the Class B title with scores of 199, and after one shoot-off round, Zuchi was the Class B Champion and Fernando the Class B runner-up. Brady Duren had to run an extra 200 straight in addition to his score of 199 to secure the Junior Champion title over Tyler Honnold, who was the Junior runner-up with 199 and 199x200 in overtime. Jeff Vollmar was the Sub Veteran Champion with a 199 and shootoff win over Lew Carns, who took the category runner-up trophy. Jim Godez was the Veteran Champion following his score of 199 and a forfeit by Tank Lunsford. Scott Ross was the Senior Veteran winner outright with a 199.

Sunday

The final day of the shoot started off overcast and humid once again but with almost non-existent wind, scores in the Doubles Championship were high. Herbert Lewis broke the lone 100 straight in the event, earning him the Southern Grand American Doubles title without need for a shootoff. Zachari Nannini was the event runner-up with a 99 and forfeits by Richard Marshall Jr and Joseph Charnigo, who took Champion and runner-up in Class AAA for their scores. Brandon Hood and Gavin Kuck tied for the Junior title with 99s. Following a forfeit by Kuck, Hood was the Junior Champion. Ethan Ledford had to go 60 straight in the shootoff, in addition to his program score of 99, to secure the Junior Gold title over Cole Henning, who took Junior Gold runner-up. Clare Schaffer was the Lady I Champion following her score of 99. Michael Fontello was the Class AA winner after Aiden Master forfeited the shoot-off to take Class AA runner-up, and Drew Hoekstra was the Class B Champion, all with scores of 98.

The skies cleared and the breeze picked up some for the Handicap Championship, but excellent visibility and warm temperatures kept scores

Singles Championship

Champion	Steven Miller	PA	200
RU	Michael Fontello	DE	200
AAA	Zach Nannini	MO	199
AA	Justin Debrie	NE	198
A	Bryce Havenar	OH	198
B	Carlos Zuchi	BZ	199
C	Doug Stenback	SC	195
D	Eliomar Serpa	BZ	192
LD1	Jennifer Rutger	TX	198
LD2	Deborah Ohye-Neilson	PA	198
Sub Jr	Wyatt Debrie	NE	198
Junior	Brady Duren	TN	199
Jr Gold	Jack Knaus	MN	200
Sub Vet	Jeff Vollmar	WI	199
Veteran	Jim Godez	FL	199
Senior Vet	Scott Ross	WV	199
Chair	Dale Rasmussen	FL	186

Doubles Championship

Champion	Herbert Lewis	KY	100
RU	Zach Nannini	MO	99
AAA	Richard Marshall Jr	NE	99
AA	Michael Fontello	DE	98
A	Treavor Lance	TN	97
B	Drew Hoekstra	TN	98
C	Robert Hill Jr	NC	95
D	John Manetta	PA	96
LD1	Clare Schaffer	PA	99
LD2	Deborah Ohye-Neilson	PA	96
Sub Jr	Wyatt Debrie	NE	95
Junior	Brandon Hood	PA	99
Jr Gold	Ethan Ledford	GA	99
Sub Vet	Carl Chadwell	MI	98
Veteran	Urban Womer	NY	98
Senior Vet	Sheldon Hostetter	PA	96
Chair	John Ent Jr	FL	78

Handicap Championship

Champion	Terry Lash	PA	98
RU	Matt Trammell	FL	97
3rd	Herbert Lewis	KY	96
4th	Michael Fontello	DE	96
5th	Frank Karakostas	FL	96
6th	David Shaeffer Jr	MD	96
7th	Mark Ryan	PA	96
LD1	Katie Gilbertson	IL	95
LD2	Marcy Plunkett	PA	97
Sub Jr	Channing Garrett	TN	95
Junior	Izaak Zihlman	IA	96
Jr Gold	Cole Henning	IA	97
Sub Vet	Carl Chadwell	MI	97
Veteran	Bob Morphy	ON	97
Senior Vet	Wayne Ehgoetz	ON	94
Chair	Dale Rasmussen	FL	88



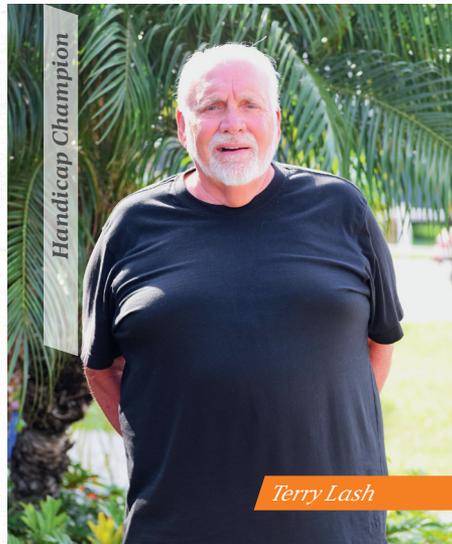
Doubles & HAA Lady Champion

Clare Schaffer



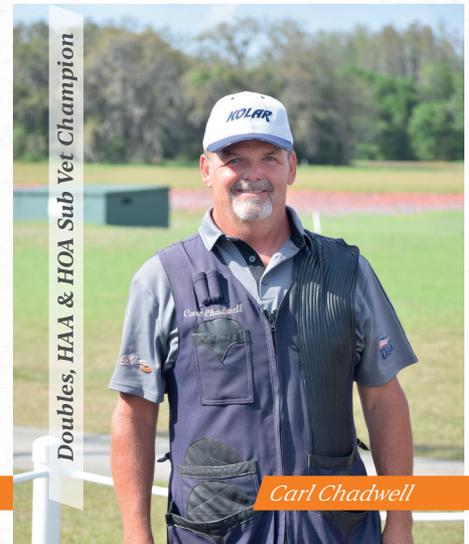
High All Around Champion

Cole Henning



Handicap Champion

Terry Lash



Doubles, HAA & HOA Sub Vet Champion

Carl Chadwell

high. Terry Lash from Pennsylvania led the field of 445 with the lone high score of 98 from 21 yards and was the Southern Grand American Handicap Champion. Matt Trammell was the event runner-up with the only non-category score of 97. Carl Chadwell was the Sub Veteran winner with a 97 and one extra round with Brendan Doorly, who took Sub Veteran runner-up. Cole Henning, Marcy Plunkett, and Bob Morphy were the Junior Gold, Lady II, and Veteran category winners in the event, all with scores of 97. Herbert Lewis was the event 3rd place winner with a score of 96, after a shootoff with Michael Fontello and Frank Karakostas and forfeits by

David Shaeffer Jr and Mark Ryan, who took event 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th places. Izaak Zihlman was the Junior Champion and Mark Isner the Veteran winner, each following scores of 96.

HAA & HOA

Cole Henning topped the High All Around standings with an impressive 395x400 and took event Champion, one target ahead of Jack Knaus and Michael Fontello, who took Junior Gold and Class AAA titles with 394s. Herbert Lewis was the Class AAA runner-up with a 393 and a forfeit by Zachari Nannini. Jack Knaus's consistent shooting

High All Around

Champion	Cole Henning	IA	395
AAA	Michael Fontello	DE	394
AA	Joseph Needham	IA	386
A	Bryce Havenar	OH	386
B	Barrett Debric	NE	379
C	Robert Hill Jr.	NC	375
D	Adrian Baran	ON	376
LD1	Clare Schaffer	PA	389
LD2	Deborah Ohye-Neilson	PA	379
Sub Jr	Channing Garrett	TN	384
Junior	Tyler Honnold	TN	391
Jr Gold	Jack Knaus	MN	394
Sub Vet	Carl Chadwell	MI	393
Veteran	Mark Isner	WV	388
Senior Vet	Kay Ohye	FL	387
Chair	Dale Rasmussen	FL	349

High Over All

Champion	Jack Knaus	MN	979
AAA	Michael Fontello	DE	967
AA	Thomas Galloway Jr	NC	956
A	Jennifer Rutger	TX	948
B	Gavin Wulf	IA	922
C	Justin Mcghie	ON	910
D	Adrian Baran	ON	924
LD1	Abigail Malecha	MN	951
LD2	Deborah Ohye-Neilson	PA	921
Sub Jr	Channing Garrett	TN	940
Junior	Gavin Kuck	NE	957
Jr Gold	Ethan Ledford	GA	964
Sub Vet	Carl Chadwell	MI	972
Veteran	Mark Isner	WV	953
Senior Vet	Scott Messenger	MN	939

throughout the week earned him the High Over All title with a score of 979x1000. Closest to Knaus in the HOA race was Carl Chadwell, who took Sub Veteran Champion with 972.

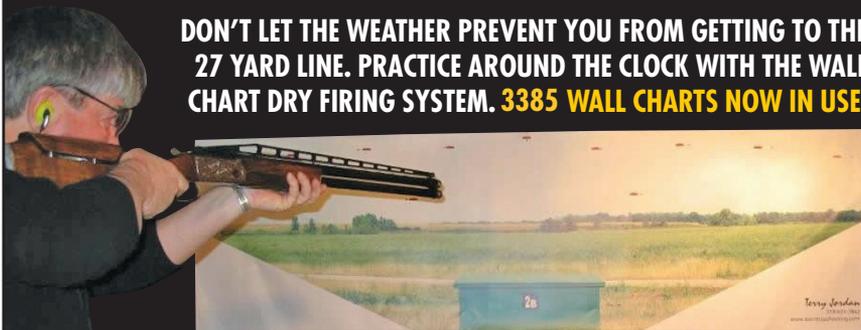
Attendance at the Southern Grand American was up from last year, and with a total of 1301 combined entries on the weekend Championship events, the shoot ended up with a competition factor of 5 for All-American Points. Beautiful weather for the final days of

the shoot resulted in a very competitive tournament, with many high scores being posted in all classes and categories. With all that the Silver Dollar Shooters Club and the surrounding area have to offer, the Southern Grand American is without a doubt one of my favorite shoots of the year. My hope is that after reading this you will want to put the Southern Grand American on your list of shoots to attend in 2025. ■



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