



# Winchester / White Flyer Shoot

//// by josh buchiere

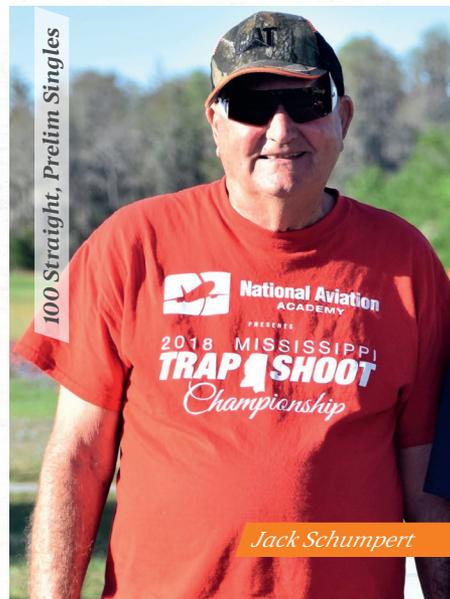
The 2024 Winchester/White Flyer Shoot was hosted by the Silver Dollar Shooters Club in Odessa, Florida, from Friday, February 23, to Sunday, February 25. The program for the shoot consisted of 100 targets each Preliminary Singles and Doubles on Friday, 100 Championship Doubles and 100 Preliminary Handicap on Saturday, and 100 targets each Singles and Handicap Championships on Sunday, for a total of 600 targets. This tournament was the competition debut for ATA trap of the new White Flyer Eco Flyer AA targets, a biodegradable target made without pitch or sulfur that has been designed to match the performance characteristics of a traditional pitch target. As is the norm at the Silver Dollar, the "Orange Dome" version of these targets was utilized.

## Friday

Strong winds and clear skies were the forecast for the first day of the shoot, and the gusting winds would only get stronger as the day went on. In the first event of the day, the Preliminary Singles, the lone 100 straight was posted by Jack Schumpert, who took the Senior Veteran trophy for his score. James Flint was the Class AA Champion with the only non-category score of 99 in the event. Michael Capozzi was the Veteran winner outright following his score of 99. Charles Lehmann Jr. was the Class A Champion with a 98. Following a carryover on Sunday with Mia Moriarty, Abigail Malecha was the Lady Champion

with a score of 97.

By the time shooters were called to the line for the second event of the day, the Preliminary Doubles, wind gusts were approaching 40 mph. The intense wind made for wild pairs of doubles, and scores plummeted as a result. Abigail Malecha turned in the lone high score of 94 and was the Lady Champion, beating the rest of the field by a two target margin. Joseph Needham was the Veteran category winner with a 92, and Michael Gooch was the Class A Champion with a 90. Michael Capozzi, Jack Schumpert, Mia Moriarty, and Mark Isner were the Class C, Senior Veteran, Class B, and Class AA winners, with respective scores of 89, 88, 88, and 87.



Jack Schumpert



Elmer Ebling

## Saturday

Conditions improved significantly from the previous day for Saturday morning's Doubles Championship. In spite of seemingly good conditions, scores in the event were low overall. Elmer Ebling was high in the event with the lone high score of 96 and was the event Champion without need for a shoot-off. Carl Chadwell was the Class AA winner with the lone second high score of 95. Abigail Malecha, Jimmie Ballard, Kay Ohye, and Charles Lehmann Jr. were the Lady I, Veteran, Senior Veteran, and Class C winners, all with scores of 93. Bruce Schmidt was the Class B Champion with a 92, and Mike Dennis was the Class A winner with a 91 and forfeits by Dave Dressler and Mary Thompson.

**RESULTS**

**Doubles Championship**

Champion	Elmer Ebling	96
AA	Carl Chadwell	95
A	Mike Dennis	91
B	Bruce Schmidt	92
C	Charles Lehmann Jr	93
D	Jeff Walkowiak	84
Lady	Abigail Malecha	93
Veteran	Jimmie Ballard	93
Senior Vet	Kay Ohye	93

**Singles Championship**

Champion	Abigail Malecha	100
AA	Deborah Ohye-Neilson	99
A	Charles Jackson	99
B	Jerry Cloutier	97
C	Michael Mincel	98
D	Estella Williams	96
Lady	Mia Moriarty	100
Veteran	Bruce Schmidt	100
Senior Vet	William Wallis	99

**Handicap Championship**

Champion	Willard Roberts	94
19-21.5	Estella Williams	92
22-24.5	Donald Buchheit	91
25-27	Mike Dennis	93
Lady	Mia Moriarty	94
Veteran	Bruce Schmidt	91
Senior Vet	CP Burke	92

In the second event of the day, the Preliminary Handicap, John Nord led all shooters in the event with the lone high score of 94 from 20 yards and was the Senior Veteran Champion. Frank Karakostas was the 19-20.5 yardage group with a score of 93 and a flip win over Jeff Walkowiak. Mia Moriarty posted the only score of 92 in the event and was the Lady Champion outright. Torrance Baksh was the Veteran Champion with a 90, and Nancy Patterson was the 25-27 yardage group winner with an 89 and a flip win over Jerry Dunford and Mike Dehabey.

**Sunday**

Shooting conditions for the final day of the tournament were about as good as one could hope for at the Silver Dollar, with almost no wind and clear skies, and the high scores in the Singles Championship reflected it. Three shooters, Abigail Malecha, Mia Moriarty, and Bruce Schmidt, blasted 100 straights in the event and would be called at the conclusion of the day to shoot off. Schmidt opted to skip the shoot-off and fell back to take the Veteran title, leaving Malecha

and Moriarty to shoot off for the Championship.

Both ladies made it through the first box straight and would take the line once again for a second overtime round. Moriarty let one target slip away early in the round for a 24 and Malecha remained straight earning her the Singles Champion title, and Moriarty fell back to take champion in the Lady category. Deborah Ohye-Neilson was the Class AA winner with a 99, and Charles Jackson the Class A Champion with the same score and a forfeit by Mary Thompson. William Wallis was the Senior Veteran Champion with a 99 and a flip win over George Kirk. Michael Mincel was the Class C champion with a 98, and Jerry Cloutier was the Class B winner with a 97 and a flip win over Josh Buchiere and forfeits by Stephen Gilbertson, Brent Miller, and Ben Schumpert.

In the final event of the shoot, the Handicap Championship, high scores of 94 were turned in by Willard Roberts and Mia Moriarty. After the conclusion of the Singles Championship shootoff, Roberts and Moriarty were called to shoot off for the title. After discussion between the two shooters, both agreed



to a coin flip to decide the winner. Roberts ended up winning the flip and took event Champion, while Moriarty fell back to take the Lady category title. Mike Dennis was the 25-27 yardage group winner with the lone second high score of 93. CP Burke was the Senior Veteran Champion with a score of 92, and Estella Williams was the 19-21.5 yardage group winner with the same score. Bruce Schmidt was the Veteran champion with a 91 and a flip win over Steven Fuller. Donald Buchheit took the 22-24.5 yardage group with a 91.

The Winchester/White Flyer Shoot provided a unique opportunity for shooters to experience the latest product development in the White Flyer line in a competition setting for the first time. While full scale production of the Eco Flyer AA target has not been implemented at all of White Flyer's



*Joshua Taylor of White Flyer, on site target testing*

plants across the country, with the environmental benefits of this target, I would expect to see them make an

appearance at gun clubs throughout the country in the near future. ■

*Pending Ad*