

Around the ATA Minnesota

By Paul T. Cyr

Greetings from the North Star State! I just returned from the Grand, a Grand that was very successful for a number of Minnesota shooters. Before we talk about the Grand, we want to say congratulations to Scott Gens for a hugely successful Iowa State Shoot as he broke the lone 200 in the singles to win over 625 others and won the HOA and HAA by wide margins. Way to go Scott!

Now back to the Grand. With the exception of preliminary Thursday, the weather was great and the scores matched the weather. The target setting and presentation was excellent and the wind rarely blew over 5 mph. Trapshooting nirvana! We had a number of great performances by Minnesotans. It is hard to say who was the headliner, but John Kelly, Nick Kubasch, and Carson Tauber all had moments of greatness. Carson broke 100 in the Preliminary Handicap and 25 in the shootoff to capture the event. He even broke 94 from his new yardage (27) in the GAH the next day. Nick broke 200 on Clay Target day and 200 more that night in the shootoff to advance to the next night of shootoffs. He missed in the 11th box to end up in the runner-up spot in this year's Clay Target race. Congratulations Nick! Glenn Linden and George Pappas also broke 200 on Championship day although neither ended with a trophy. Joe Kelly Construction sent one crew to Sturgis headed up by Jacob for the Rally and John was in charge of the second crew in Sparta. We can't account for what went on in South Dakota, but John cut a wide swath through the trophy list at the Grand. He won seven awards including tying for 3rd in the HOA with a 981 (finishing 5th), and tying for 2nd in the HAA with a 396, finishing in the third place spot. In addition he was 10th in the GAH after a 98, eighth in the Preliminary Handicap after 98, AA high in the Class Doubles after 99 and won two other class AA doubles trophies with 99's. Great job John!

In addition to these gentlemen, many other state shooters won trophies during the Grand. Among the winners were Dean Neuman, Troy Haverly, and Frank Redfield, who, in addition to winning a number of other trophies, won the National Team Race for Sub Veterans contested on Preliminary Friday. I'll apologize in advance if I forget anyone, but here is a list of Minnesota trophy winners that I compiled and a few of their accomplishments: Scott Gens, Luther Langrud (coached by Pat Gottberg, who is on the mend and hopes to shoot next year), Curt Peterson, Eric Munson (three 100's in doubles and a pair of 98's in handicap), Dennis Vlasak, Eric Gunderson, Pete Walker, outgoing MTA President Scott Messenger Veteran Doubles champ, John Stone (Carson's coach), Randy Cook (the other half of the Dynamic Duo, along with Redfield, from da' Range), Colton Sherman who ended up third in the Champion of Champions after 100 and carryover, Jim Walkowiak, Bernie Merchlewitz, Jr. (99 and 98 in back to back handicaps), Colton Langer, and legendary Peter Falk III who won awards in both the HOA and HAA in his class. In addition to his good shooting, my sources tell me Peter was on a first name basis with the waiters at the buffet in Pistol City.

A big congratulations to Chantel Merchlewitz for winning the \$40,000 Krieghoff Combo at the HOF induction. I have great story to relate about the drawing, but that will have to wait until next month. We have season ending shoots in St. Cloud (Steer and Calf), Alexandria (Big Ole), and the Del Monte to report on next time as well details from the State Board of Directors meeting in St. Cloud.

By the time you read this, many of you will have put some heavy oil on your trap gun and be thinking about time in the field hunting. Good Luck to all.

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