

October 2011 Trap & Field Article By Ron Noren

Wow! Where do I begin? Minnesota shooters had great success at this year's Grand American Trapshoot held at Sparta, Illinois August 3rd thru the 13th. Seventy-seven shooters took home a total of 64 trophies at this year's event. Scott Gens led the way winning 14 awards, while Bob Munson collected 9 and Eric Munson took home 7. Also, Rick Nelson won 6 and Kay Cee Nelson led the women with 4 trophies. During Preliminary week Scott was the HOA winner as well as top shooter in the White Flyer Super 400 Handicap with 391 and runner-up in the Krieghoff Handicap, missing only one! Eric won the EZ-GO Doubles with 100 straight and crushed 399 targets to claim the Browning Super 400 Doubles crown. Dean Neumann placed 3rd in the Clay Target Championship with 200X200 and 12th in the Preliminary Handicap shooting 99X100. Rick took HAA and HOA as a Chair Shooter during Grand Week. Dean Walker won the Veteran's title in the Clay Target Championship with 200X200. Check out our web site for other MN winners at: www.minnesotatrap.com

In the National Team Race, held on Friday of Preliminary Week, we had two teams place. The Men's Team consisting of Eric Munson, Scott Gens, Dean Neumann, Troy Haverly and Mark Zauhar took home top honors. They hit an amazing 1473 of a possible 1500 targets thrown in the three events that day. Scott dropped only one target, Eric two and Dean four to lead the champs to an 11 bird advantage over second place Pennsylvania. Minnesota Ladies trio of Mariah Michaelis, Kay Cee Nelson and Monique Morton finished Runner-up in their category, losing by only 8 targets to the Illinois team. Way to represent Minnesota!

There was a nice increase in attendance at this year's Grand with the weather cooperating most of the time. Preliminary week was very hot and steamy. Attendance was down during the prelims mainly because there were no events on Tuesday this year. By Tuesday of Grand Week, it was very comfortable and numbers were up 17% over 2010! The peach ice cream and cobbler tasted great as usual and most of the vendors seemed satisfied with the turnout. Even though I didn't make the big money in the LeeAnn Martin HOA Lewis Challenge during Grand Week, I did manage to hit a few of the Martin's daily lewies to help cut expenses. Bill and LeAnn Martin have again agreed to generously donate \$300,000 to next year's Grand and have now added \$50,000 for the Lady Handicap Champion's to compete for. Make plans now for the 2012 Grand. It's a great venue and the prize money is very enticing. There are plenty of places to stay if you start looking early.

MN Sportsmen's Club at Zimmerman, finally were able to get their first ATA Shoot in after canceling their May shoot due to heavy rain. Steve Hauge led singles with a 99, Brian Koosman topped the caps with 98 and Keith Koosman was high in the twins with an 89.

Bemidji had thirty-two entries August 13 and thirty-one entries on the 14th. Saturday, Brian Lawrence shot a 99 to lead the 16's, George Day smashed 95 to take the Handicap and Glenn McLeod broke 98 in the Doubles. Sunday's events were led by Glenn McLeod's 100 in the 16's, Perry Nodsle's 94 in the caps and Glenn McCleod also took the Doubles with a 97.

Congratulations to Bernie Merchlewitz, Jr. of Winona, who reached the 27 yard line at the Grand American. Bernie started the year at the 22 yard line and was at 26 ½ at the start of this year's Grand. He shot a 96 on Tuesday, August 9th during the Anzaldi Memorial Handicap to reach the coveted real estate. Having accomplished this by shooting only 4300 lifetime handicap targets is quite an achievement!

On behalf of the MTA, I would like to extend our sympathies to the Evy McGowan family. Evy passed away on August 1, 2011 in Rush City, MN. Evy was the energetic and talkative cashier at the Del-Tone Gun Club when Dick and Judy Berger still owned the club. Evy also worked in the office for the State Shoot for 20+ years.

We are winding up yet another year. Once the weather straightened out, it sure seemed to fly by. There are still some marathons to shoot in October, so get out there. Thank you for supporting the MTA registered events this year and I hope to see you next spring. Invite a friend or two along with you and introduce them to our friendly competition. He or she will be hooked, just as we were!

Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any concerns or questions about trapshooting in our state. I appreciate the opinions and suggestions that I've been receiving. Also, let me know of any recognition for shooters accomplishments that should be mentioned in future articles. My phone is 507-381-5908 and e-mail is: Visit our new "official" web site at www.minnesotatrap.com

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