

THE CONNECTICUT STATE SHOOT

Submitted by: Franklin Mauri

The Connecticut State Skeet Shoot was held on the Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 31, Sept. 1 & 2, 2012 at the Fin, Fur & Feather Club in Chaplin CT.

The Doubles event was held on Friday with 23 shooters. Mary DeFrancesco was event champion with a fine 98. Steve Krukoff with a score of 97 was runner-up. Willie Clark and Josh St. Lawrence with matching 96's shot-off for AAA1 & 2 with Willie besting Josh. Andre St. George with a 95 took AA1. The A class winners were in order Ray Gilbert, Tom Fisher and John Mathewson while B class winners were Chip Smith, Ted Naumec and Franklin Mauri. Alison Fisher was D1 with Dan Krouse D2 and Mike Mongillo D3.

The 12 Ga. event opened Saturday's activities with 46 participants. Josh St. Lawrence with the only 100 emerged as the gun champion. Josh has been shooting up a storm since his re-emergence into competitive shooting and appears to have a long and successful career ahead of him. There were 8 shooters at 99/100 so the conditions were set for a protracted shoot-off later in the day. When the shoot-off ended, Howard Altman emerged as Runner-up, Steve Krukoff as AAA1, Andre St. George AAA2, Tom Fisher AAA3, Bob DeFrancesco AA1, George Giannotti AA2 and Dennis Jolley AA3. Class A winners were John Mathewson A1, Winfield Danielson A2 & Michael Daigle A3. Cory Dancosse, George Richter and John Venezia were B1, 2 & 3 respectively. Anthony Koronkiewicz, Bill Morey and Joe Celotto were the winners in C class while Douglas Kramer took D1. E class winners were Norm Slater, Landon Whitney and Mark Grossane in that order.

The 28 Ga. competition was held on Saturday afternoon with 42 participants. When the shooting was done there were 3 – 100's posted and from the shoot-off Howard Altman emerged as 28 Ga. champion, Steve Krukoff was Runner-up and Ray Gilbert AA1. Class winners were Willie Clark AAA1, Josh St. Lawrence AAA2, Bob DeFrancesco AAA3, Thomas Fisher AA2, Ted Naumec AA3, David Ballerini A1, John Mathewson A2, and Dennis Jolley A3. Additional class winners were; Chip Smith B1, George Richter B2, Regis Koontz B3, Joe Celotto C1, Corey Britt C2, Bill Morey C3, Daniel Conderino D1, Diana Gilbert D2 and Franklin Mauri D3.

Saturday evening the annual State Shoot dinner was held in the main room of the Fin's clubhouse. A steak dinner with trimmings was enjoyed by the shooters and guests. During the dinner the selections to the Connecticut Hall of Fame were presented with plaques commemorating their induction. Andre St. George was entered into the Hall in honor of his many shooting achievements over a number of years. The John T. Brainard Memorial award for services to Skeet was presented to Frank and Connie Mauri, a husband/wife tandem that have shot skeet and run skeet shoots for many more years than they wish to recall

The 20 Ga. event occurred on Sunday morning with 36 shooters participating. Four shooters finished with 100's and after a shoot-off David Ballerini, having shot his first ever 20 Ga. 100, emerged as the Champion, Willie Clark was Runner-up, Steve Krukoff AAA1 and Bob DeFrancesco AA1. Josh St. Lawrence's 98 garnered him AAA2 with Doug Britt (99) and Tom Fisher (99) finishing AA2 & 3. Winfield Danielson (99), Mary DeFrancesco (99) were A1 & 2 while Ted Naumec (98) was A3. George Richter, Dennis Jolley and Greg Buoncore were Class B winners and Chip Smith, Daniel Krouse & Mike Hassan taking the honors in Class C. Richard Burke was D1 and Landon Whitney D2 thus rounding out the winners in the event.

The 410 competition was held Sunday afternoon with 37 participants. Andre St. George and Charlie LaPointe each with 99's shot off for the title. Andre became the champion while Charlie took Runner-up honors. The AAA class was won by Ray Gilbert (1), Bob DeFrancesco (2) & Steve Krukoff (3). Tom Fisher, Ted Naumec & Josh St. Lawrence were class A1, 2 & 3 respectively. Class A saw in order Doug Britt, Chip Smith & Mary DeFrancesco as winners. Regis Koontz, John Venezia & Dennis Jolley were the B class winners while C class winners were Paul Duggan, Edward Prest & Corey Britt. The D class winners were Dwayne Britt, Dan Krouse and Diana Gilbert.

High-Over- All for the shoot was Steve Krukoff with a 397/400 while Bob DeFrancesco with a 394/400 became the HOA runner-up. Willie Clark was AAA1, Ray Gilbert AA1, Howard Altman A1, Chip Smith B1, Joe Celotto C1 and Landon Whitney D1.

As always at the Fin many people contributed to the success of the shoot. Kate Altman as cashier; Connie Mauri as Queen of the Field Kitchen and Club house kitchen; Bob DeFrancesco along with Bob and Cathy Walton on the grill cooking the steaks' were all important. Dickie Dietz and his team of referees were outstanding. The Fin membership came through in magnificent style grooming the fields, tweaking the machines, keeping the machines full of birds, delivering water to the fields, food to the field kitchen and then doing policing duties at the end of each day. The number of individuals precludes their being named in case I forget one or two but they may all feel assured that their efforts were appreciated by the shooters and by the shoot management.