

Rick Camuglia wins National FITASC Championship

STEVE FISCHER REPORTS FROM CLAYTHORNE LODGE, KANSAS

Among the many notables regarding Sam and Frieda Lancaster's Claythorne Lodge, two things immediately come to mind. The first being its 'you can't get there from here' location in the middle of rural Kansas farm country. The second is the 'all out' effort made to give the shooter a top notch and memorable event.

This year's National FITASC Championship certainly falls into that top notch category, with some of the finest championship quality FITASC targets I have seen. This year's event featured a 50 target FITASC Pre-lim, a 100 target sporting Pre-lim, a 50 target 5-Stand event, culminating with a 200 target FITASC Main Event and

their annual 100 target sporting Columbus Day Classic.

Clear skies, warm temperatures and a light breeze greeted the early arrivals for the Thursday 50 bird FITASC and/or 100 target sporting Pre-lim. The FITASC event shadowed what was to come, featuring targets of a true championship level set by Neil

Chadwick. It would not be unreasonable to say that FITASC is an acquired taste. The target presentations are usually tougher, longer, faster and somewhat different than the sporting clays variety. For those whose pulse begins to gain speed at the sight of a 50 yard battue, or perhaps a 40 yard screaming crosser, this Pre-



RICK CAMUGLIA ON PARCOUR 1.



"MISTER MAGIC", COURSE DESIGNER NEIL CHADWICK.



ONE OF THE MANY SCENIC PARCOURS SET OVER THE MANY LAKES AT CLAYTHORNE.

lim was what dreams are made of. The two Parcours were filled to the top with entertaining targets, including a most memorable screamingly fast and high midi tower crosser that must have made close to 150 yards in flight at about 45 yards away from the peg – along with a 40 plus yard crossing rabbit!

Tom Ruck (43) posted the winning score in the Pre-lim with yours truly in at Runner-up and top Veteran with at 42. Sandra Cogdill (29) topped the Ladies. Junior honors went to Dan White (33). Joe McHenry's 39 took Super-Veterans.

The Sporting Pre-lim was won by Curtis Maldin (92) with Gregg Wolf (89) as Runner-up.

NATIONAL FITASC EVENT

Targets for this Championship were, without doubt, worthy of a World Championship event in my book, and Neil threw everything but the kitchen sink at us over eight outstanding Parcours. He threw them long. He threw them close, as well as fast and slow, and tried us on teal, rabbits, midis, standards coming, going, crossing, and doing things that often baffled the shooter to figure out just where the real sweet spot was for the break point. It was commonplace to hear "oohs and aahs" while the squad watched the view targets, and each peg of each Parcour seemed to radically change the





HUGH SMITH, CHIEF FITASC REFEREE ALL THE WAY FROM THE UK.

previous peg's presentations. The depth and variety of presentations on each layout was truly remarkable – each Parcour had its own personality, and it was very evident that considerable attention to terrain and location went into the design of each presentation.

Both Friday and Saturday the weather was our friend, and although a bit on the warm side in the mid 80s, a solid breeze kept the temperature tolerable. Our luck ran out with the dawn of Sunday, and the last two Parcours would be shot by most of us in the rain. At first, it was just a light misty rain, but things deteriorated quickly, and those who shot in the early afternoon got soaked to the skin. Visibility became a real issue, and keeping the rain drops off the shooting glasses was almost impossible. The extra effort and pre-planning by Claythorne's staff to put crushed rock in all the hoops was greatly appreciated by the competitors as the ground became very slick and muddy. Just about the time the shooters completed

their last Parcour, the rains subsided.

As always, FITASC event winners are hard to handicap, and this one would be no different. Early favorites leaned toward a half dozen shooters, all of which were more than capable of winning. Junior shooters Theo Ribbs and Joey Bolton were shooting well, as was World Champion Gregg Wolf, Will Fennell, Rick Camuglia and Tom Ruck – all posting some big numbers early on.

When the final tally came in it was Rick Camuglia who would become the 2007 National FITASC Champion with an outstanding score of 175. Tom Ruck took the Runner-up position (170). Gregg Wolf took Master 1st, with Curtis Mauldin in second place and Curtis Anderson in third and Veteran Champion. In the concurrents, Ashleigh Hafley (148) won Ladies with Paula Moore (140) second. Super-Veteran winner was Joe Cantey (155) with second place going to Mike Taylor (152).

Traditionally, FITASC is a three position awarded event – Gold, Silver or Bronze. In my opinion, the only flaw found in this event was the fact that only two places were awarded to the concurrents in this National Championship. Three spots were awarded in each class. In total, there were 84 entries in Master and AA, while the concurrents combined had almost as many at 80. Surely these numbers should warrant a third spot trophy in concurrents. Food for thought!

COLUMBUS DAY CLASSIC

This event was shot by 136 entrants over 13 stations. These targets were typical sporting presentations and featured a good variety, making for an interesting event with an appropriate level of difficulty. Curtis Mauldin burned it up pretty well, shooting the HOA score of 97. Gregg Wolf took Master class with a 93, tied with Harvey Holden, and third place went to Brody Sikes (91) who also won Juniors. Other concurrent champions were Ashleigh Hafley (86) in the Ladies. Sub Junior winner was Cody Nielsen (87), Veteran honors went to Mark Kiddie (90) and SuperVeterans was won by Joe McHenry (90). A complete listing of all events and scores can be found at Lois Lessing's web sight, www.wyshotgun.com ■