

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

**STEVE FISCHER REPORTS
FROM THE HiDefSpex
LOBSTER CLASSIC AND
SILVER CUP VETERANS
CHAMPIONSHIP AT
ADDIEVILLE EAST FARM**

Over the past few years, most Big Blasts have been pretty darned good – with not many exceptions. However, the 2008 HiDefSpex Lobster Classic was different. It served to bring back into focus that once in a while it's not just about targets and shooting – sometimes it's also about having fun.

Jeoff Gabbe is the host, proprietor, MC, sometime target setter, and for the most part, chief cook and bottle washer at Addieville East Farm, the host venue. You can tell he truly enjoys the task – he and his staff are the primary reason that the HiDefSpex Lobster Classic is truly a 'horse of a different color' when it comes to Big Blasts. Sure, it has all the usual events like a 200 target Main, a 100 target FITASC, a sub-gauge event and 5-Stand, but also running simultaneously is the second part of the shoot – the Silver Cup Veterans Championship. It serves to acknowledge the shooters who have reached the concurrent ages and are now Veteran, Super



Veteran and Senior Super-Veteran – in both sporting and FITASC. With over half of shooters attending sporting events around the country falling into the Veteran's concurrent (with ever more entering each year as time and the clock forever march forward), it would seem only logical for clubs and tournaments to cater more to this group of senior competitors.

THE PRE-LIM

The early birds who arrived on Friday (8th August) were treated to an entertaining 'feel good' Prelim. Wendell Cherry topped the leaderboard with a fine score of 97





TOP THREE IN THE 5-STAND.



in a tie with Andy Duffy. Right on their heels, George Digweed was one back at 96, taking the last of the top three spots (A full listing of this event and complete results of all events can be found at www.addieville.com). Along with the Pre-lim, there were several other events going on for those who just can't get enough of a good thing. There was a pump and side by side event, as well as the sub-gauge, and a competition 5-Stand. Still not enough? How about a super Make-A-Break that ran all weekend, a Long Bird and a fun 10 shot warm up stand with proceeds going to the Team USA general fund.

GREAT FITASC

The targets for this Grrr Gear sponsored FITASC event were as FITASC should be – challenging yet hittable with the usual caveat, “as long as the shooter did his (or her) part.” The four Parcour were scattered throughout the property – a couple of the layouts took several minutes to get to, even with the aid of a clays cart. I was

surprised at the overall size of the Addieville East Farm grounds, as well as its beauty and terrain. I would bet that there is certainly enough room to host a major championship such as a U.S. Open should they ever entertain the idea.



Parcours one and three proved to be the most challenging, with Parcour one the toughest – as attested to by the scores. The targets were long and tricky, with an especially evil incomer that popped up at about 50 yards and quickly dropped to the ground. The sweet spot on that shot was right at the peak of its rise, though many shooters missed this one over the top. Along with the incomer, there were two equally

difficult crossers, two teal at serious distance, and a long rolling chondelle that shooters either dialed in early, or continually missed. Hub Johnson shot the lone high score of 21 on this layout. He also shot one of only three event straights, all of which were achieved on Parcour 4.

Top FITASC honors went to Jared Rumer (20-24-19-21=84) with Tracy Newell (83) and Hub Johnson tied for the Runner-up spot. The Ladies trophy went to Stefanie Steinkraus, tied with Runner-up Paula Moore (68). Sub-Junior winner, Ben Slome, shot a fine 82, one up on Josh Gomez. Junior winner was Hub Johnson (83) followed home by Theo Ribbs (82).

At this point, the Silver Cup Veterans event kicked into gear – with senior concurrent shooters eligible for awards as well as

MAIN EVENT

The 200 target HiDefSpex Main sporting event was shot over two courses and two days. The weather was as good as it gets – and Addieville's terrain made for some excellent and fun presentations. The shooters were coming in with smiles – with the exception of one station which had a wind affected teal that got blown behind a tree every now and then. Otherwise, the targets were fair and there were just enough tougher shots as separators to make for some excellent competition. Much



PARCOURS ONE AND THREE PROVED TO BE THE MOST CHALLENGING, WITH PARCOUR ONE THE TOUGHEST – AS ATTESTED TO BY THE SCORES.

anything they might have won in the open event. Starting with the Ladies, Dee Orr took top honors with 63 and Jacquell Scarsella was Runner-up at 55. Michael Harris topped the Veteran's with 75, tied with Runner-up Mark Kiddie. I squeaked out a win in the Super-Veteran's with 73, tied with Dave De Fernelmont who was unable to make the shoot-off. There were no Senior Super-Veteran's in the FITASC event.



appreciated by competitors were the Del's frozen lemonade stands, strategically located around the course. Served as a frozen "slushie" style ice and lemonade mixture, they were as addictive as they were delicious.

Day one ended with Wendell Cherry sitting comfortably atop the leaderboard at 95, with George Digweed just two off at 93, followed by Curt Mauldin and John Carbone at 90.

TRUE ENTERTAINMENT

After shooting on Saturday, it was time for entertainment! Well

GEORGE DIGWEED WITH HIDEFSPX CUSTOMERS



FRISBEE DOG!

before the banquet, hors d'oeuvres were plentiful with veggies, cheese and dips, as well as some hot finger foods just to keep the hunger pangs at bay before dinner was served. There was a well stocked cash bar for those wanting an iced down beer or mixed drink while they watched the entertainment.

This year's show began with an outstanding demonstration of several well trained 'Frisbee dogs'. A Border Collie and an Australian sheep dog wowed the audience with spectacular dashes and leaps to catch a thrown Frisbee dish – you could tell that the dogs loved

to chase down those things. The second part of the show was a young man flying a radio controlled gas powered airplane – that is, until the tail caught a power line and we were treated to a less than perfect landing, unfortunately nose first into the ground!

Then the Addieville East Farm's antique 12 pounder cannon, dating back some 300 years, was ceremoniously fired – providing the audience with an ear shattering explosion announcing the start of dinner. And what a dinner it was! Obviously, the named shoot, 'The Lobster Classic,' is a dead giveaway as to the menu – cold water whole lobster, complete with delicious corn on the cob, potatoes, salad and a delicious fruit dessert. If you didn't like lobster, they had that covered too, with a seriously large cut of filet mignon.

During dinner, the Pre-lim and other side event awards were presented, as well as several guns as door prizes. To end the evening festivities, we were treated to a professionally operated 40 minute fireworks display that put a county park's 4th July extravaganza to shame.

So, we ended the day having shot some fine targets, had a great dinner and were well entertained to boot. As an extra added attraction, George Digweed (a winner of 15 World titles and arguably the finest shotgunner in the World and representative of HiDefSpex shooting glasses) mingled with the crowd, signing autographs and posing with the shooters for pictures.

Now it was time to look forward to Sunday's 100 sporting targets.

THIS YEAR'S SHOW BEGAN WITH AN OUTSTANDING DEMONSTRATION OF SEVERAL WELL TRAINED 'FRISBEE DOGS'. A BORDER COLLIE AND AN AUSTRALIAN SHEEP DOG WOWED THE AUDIENCE WITH SPECTACULAR DASHES AND LEAPS TO CATCH A THROWN FRISBEE DISH



ADDIEVILLE'S FAMOUS CIVIL WAR CANON IS LOUD — AND SIGNALS THAT DINNER IS SERVED.



ANDY DUFFY WATCHES A FLY CASTING COMPETITION.

LAST DAY

Judging by the scores, Sunday's targets were a little tougher than the previous day – but Cherry was unwilling to let go of his lead, adding a 92 to his first day 95 for a total of 187 to become the 2008 Champion. Digweed came in with a 93-91=184 for Runner-up and Curt Mauldin topped the Master class with 183. Andy Duffy (179) took M2 and Hub Johnson (174) was third. Patti Mastroianni (158) took the Ladies open concurrent with Stefanie Steinkrause (154) second and Dee Orr (152) third. The three Juniors, Hub Johnson, Brody Sikes and Theo Ribbs finished at 174, 171 and 165 respectively for first through third. Ben Slome was Sub-Junior HOA at 158, with Mitchell Muncey (141)

second and Josh Gomez (138) third.

In the Silver Cup Veteran's awards, the Lady Champion was Dee Orr (152) with Jacqeul Scarsella (138) Runner-up. The top Veteran was Michael Harris (158) tied with Richard Geminski, Runner-up. Carter Stanton (169) won Super-Veteran's with Bruce Ney (162) second. There were four Senior Super Veteran's – and the winner was John Hall (126), followed home by Dan Fisher (122).

Several guns and other prizes were given away at the awards ceremony, and a good number of shooters stuck around – not only for the awards, but for the drawings, hors d'oeuvres and open bar. As usual, Jeoff and the staff at Addieville East Farm, together with their sponsors, put on an entertaining and fun event that

went far beyond just the

targets and the shooting events – proving that sometimes it's also about having fun! ■



TOP SILVER CUP VETERANS LADY IN SPORTING AND FITASC WAS DEE ORR. AT RIGHT, PHILIP PILA OF HiDefSpex, SPONSORS OF THE LOBSTER CLASSIC.



A TRUE PAIR OF 'GIMMIES' ON THE SPORTING COURSE.