



TRÉ SIDES – US OPEN 2004 CHAMPION.

THE EYES OF THE SPORTING WORLD WERE TURNED TOWARDS HOUSTON, TEXAS THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 6TH, AS AMERICAN SHOOTING CENTERS ONCE AGAIN HOSTED A U.S. OPEN SPORTING CHAMPIONSHIP.

ASC is a large and sprawling shooting complex, covering a sizeable slice of George Bush Park – an area of the Buffalo Bayou lowlands which also serves as a reservoir for excessive waters for flood control in the Houston area. Just about two weeks before the start of this year's Open, Houston experienced some major rainfall – and ASC was flooded out and under water! It almost became necessary to move the shoot at the very last minute. Thankfully, the rains backed off for a while allowing the grounds to drain and dry off and the sunken machines to be recovered and

# A SIZZLER IN HOUSTON!

STEVE FISCHER REPORTS FROM THE 2004 U.S. OPEN



repaired as necessary. The shoot however, was not yet out of the woods and attendance was well below expectations at only 678 guns. In comparison to previous Opens, this one was down a third or more in competitors. Certainly not because of lack of events, as there were Pre-lims, sub-gauge events, the Kemen Cup side event, 200 sporting in the Main, 100 FITASC targets available to all and the usual side games including Hélice (ZZ birds) and Make-A-Break.

It would be difficult to even venture a guess as to why this event fell off in participation, but a likely suspect would be the weather. It was hot and humid to the point of misery. It may be that shooters familiar with the Houston area temperatures and humidity just decided to pass up the opportunity, hoping for a cooler location for next year. Another possibility is that each year, a larger number of big events are becoming strung out very close together and that could be taking a toll on the traveling competitors discretionary funds, forcing them to pick and choose events and to allow a bit more time between shoots to recoup funds. Even more basic would be the available time off from jobs and families to attend so many Big Blasts in a row.

## THE KEMEN CUP

This event was one of those “they sure look easier than they are!” type of events. Or maybe it was just a different style of targets than we were used to. Either way, some shooters struggled while others just zipped on through. Bobby Fowler once again showed the way, posting an incredible 96. Federico Del Toro and Jerome Holden tied at 94 for Master 1 and 2, with Jon Kruger, Dale Willroth and Cory Kruse finishing 2nd through 5th, all tied at 93.



BRIAN DUQUESNAY 'RE-GROUPING' ON THE KEMEN CUP COURSE.

AA class found Doug Vaughn (85) in the top spot with Sammy Clifton second (85) and Keith Goutreaux, William Shaffer and Wyatt Hepper finishing 3rd through 5th, tied at 84. A class Chris Kramer topped the field with an excellent 91 followed by Toby Wood (85) and Troy Behrens third (82). B Class was won with 89 by Grant Gerety, while Cory Pabody and Dr. Charles Crumpler took second and third spot with an 88 and an 83. C class was won by the 84 of Bryan Gutermuth. Eric Jensen (77) took second place followed by Ward Hepper (74). D class Rebecca Mohan and Justin Monroe tied a pair of 75s for first and second with Michelle Krier third (73). E class Jim Maxey took the top spot with 75 followed by Josh Miller (71) and Coke Waggener third (66).

Super-Veteran David Skewes

squeaked two past W. Ray Newman and Gary McStay for HOA with 82, just ahead of the two-way tie of 80 for second and third. Veteran Jerome Holden spanked the rather large Veteran's Concurrent with a sparkling 94. Dr. Gonzalo Vargas took second (89) while Vance Barnes was close behind with 88. Junior Chris Mc Clelland was having a great weekend taking the honors with 92, just one up on Chris Kramer at 91. Third place went to Brandon Powell (88). Hunter Epperson, another fine young shooter that you will be hearing more of, won the Sub-Junior title with an 87. Logan Gaskins took second place (78) followed by Justin Fox (76).

The Lady Concurrent was won by Janet Tausch with a fine 85. Linda Joy Sosebee finished second (82) while third place went to Jamie Riggs (80).

## RED, WHITE AND BLUE

Over the three days of the event, the three main courses were shot over virgin land – partly because of the previous weeks flooding and partly to present targets no one had seen before. Popular opinion was that the targets were less than anticipated. After the rousing approval of the targets at the Browning/Briley event on these same grounds less than two months before, it was a shame that so many shooters gave the targets of this event such low marks. Most of the courses were a bit heavy on true pairs, trap shots and for many of us lacked the entertainment quality that the traveling shooter demands. Several of the aerial targets were in short windows, or presented falling and dropping. Nevertheless, some pretty big scores were put up

*LOTS OF ROOM ON THE RED COURSE. WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE IS THE HEAT!*



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attesting to the fact that the targets were hittable if you did your part.

The 2004 U.S. Open Champion was Tré Sides, shooting a consistent 62-62-62=186. Congratulations for a fine performance! Runner-up, just one shot back was Junior Chris McClelland at 59-62-64=185 and Second Runner-up was Albert Bogetti Jr. (63-58-63=184). Master first went to Rick Camuglia on 182 with Bobby Fowler second, also at 182. Scott Robertson was third with 181. The awards were 10 deep and the rest of the Master class names read like the 'Who's Who'. Fourth through tenth place went to: Mick Howells (180), Anthony Matarese Jr. (179), Jon Kruger (179), Rick Mein (179), Ben Brunton (178), Andy Duffy (178) and Tom Mack (178).

AA class went to the 168 of Keith Goutreaux with Chad La Fleur (165) second and Wyatt Hepper (165) third. A class winner was G. Harris McGough (158) followed by William Henderson (157) and the 155 of Chris Kramer for third.

B class winner, Willy Cherry, shot a 156, tied with Justin Fox in

second and Logan Gaskins third (154). C class went to David Simerka (154), also tied with Bryan Gutermuth and in third place was Trey Williams (151). D class Pamela Lee shot the top score of 136, one ahead of Charles Ray (135). Third went to Todd Kramer (134). E class was won by Willam C. Harris (137) followed by a pair of 132s shot by Joe Williams and Jim Maxey.

Diane Nelson has been on a tear with no signs of letting up and



**SUB-JUNIOR CHAMP HUNTER EPPERSON. KEEP AN EYE ON THIS FINE SHOOTER!**

topped the Lady Concurrent with a fine score of 168. Second place went to Diane Sorantino (165) and third was Jamie Riggs (162). Sub-Junior, Hunter Epperson, who won the Make-a-Break in a shoot-off against Brandon Powell and took home \$2500 bucks, also won the Champion title of Sub-Junior (158), just squeaking past the 157 of William Henderson and the 156 of Justin Fox in third place. The strength of the Junior Concurrent is just awesome – and Champion Chris McClelland's 185 was good for over-all Runner-up. Nice job Chris! Travis Mears was second (172) and Brandon Powell took third (171). The Veteran's top gun was Vance Barnes (174) followed by Mark Kiddie, also at 174, with third spot going to Robert Davis (171). The Super-Veteran winner was Ronald Shafer (158) tied with Gary McStay. Third spot went to the venerable Gene Sears (157).



**LADY CHAMP DIANE NELSON RECEIVING ONE OF HER MANY AWARDS.**

## THE 5-STAND

Targets on the 5-stand were challenging and fun with Bobby Fowler topping the event with a

score of 95. On loan from Great Britain, Ben Brunton took the Runner-up spot at 94. Masters one through three went to Mick Howells (93), Brent Barrett (93) and Albert Bogetti Jr. (92). AA class winner was Junior Hub Johnson (84) with Greg Jackson and David Bragg tied at 83 for second and third. A class was won by Bobby Swineford (79) with Barrett Thomas second (77) and Chris Kramer third (76). B class honors went to Steve Wilbanks (77) with second place going to the 75 of Logan Gaskins and third to Jennifer Walton (74). C class Champion was Anthony Gagliardo (73) with second place going to Don Stallings and third to Trey Williams. D class winner was Michael Soileau (74) with Pamela Lee second (66), one up on Todd Cramer (65). E class Champion was Joe Williams, tied at 63 with second place winner Cody Durio. Third place was taken by Matt Davidson (56).

Junior shooter Chris McClelland took yet another first place, winning the 5-stand on 91. Brandon Powell took second (89) with third place going to Hub Johnson (84). Sub Junior top gun was Logan Gaskins (75) and Justin Fox was second on 73, one ahead of Justin Royal in third place. Lady Champion is no stranger to the winner's circle – Diane Nelson taking yet another title at 5-stand with an 85. Mari McStay was second (77) tied with Tina Williams in third place. David Chandler was the Veteran 5-stand Champion with 85, followed by Curtis Anderson (84) and Vance Barnes (83). Super-Veteran W. Ray Newman shot a fine 80 for top gun, with Dan Floeck second (77) and David Skewes third (75).

## SOME OF NEIL'S BEST!

The targets of Neil Chadwick's FITASC Parcours received great reviews and were thoroughly enjoyable while being respectfully challenging for the shooters. Again, the top guns were lined up in a neat row – Wendell Cherry down but six targets for a 94 and the Gold medal slot of Champion (94). Mick Howells fought a hard battle to take the Silver spot (93) and Ben Brunton topped the Master class

with 92 along with Andy Duffy also at 92 in second spot. Master three went to Arnie Palmer (91).

Parcours three and four were pretty user friendly with some nice tower shots, a great battue on Parcour 4 and a nice midi going away on Parcour 3. Parcours 1 and 2 were a bit testy – and on the Sunday leg with the wind picking up to about 25 knots became even longer and tougher. A very edgy midi teal challenged you on all three pegs, showing all edge on peg 1, and giving some dome as you moved through the pegs.

The E target, a long crosser on Parcour 3, was now pushed out and away from the shooter on peg three making for about a 60 yard screaming crosser! Parcour 4 included a couple of fast trap shots on the ground and some even faster midi's from a scissor lift that could do real damage to a scorecard if you were slow or overly careful. They were all infinitely hittable, but punished you for mental or technique mistakes. All in all, these were some of the best targets of the event.

AA class winner was Paul Shepardson (83) followed by Hub Johnson one back at 82 and Mark Landry third (80). A class went to Paula Moore (78) followed by the 76 of Ted Slade. Baxter Canady claimed third (72). B class was won by Brent Newman (72) with B-2 going to Mike Grand Jean, also at 72, and Jennifer Walton third, at 72. C class Eric Jenson took top gun honors tied three ways at 65, followed by Keith Walton and Jamie Johnson. Michelle Krier won D class with 56, and Mollie La Croix was second at 51 and Butch Miller third (49). E class was won by Michael Lehman.

Super Veteran W. Ray Newman took top honors with a 76 and Dick Phillips shot second at 74. Ronald Shaffer was third (72). Team USA member Bruce Ney took home the Veteran HOA with an 88 and Ron Honefenger was second (86) with Tom Traylor in third spot (85). The Lady Team USA Captain, Casey Atkinson, showed us why she is always a favorite, topping the Lady Concurrent (86). Second place went to Linda Joy Sosebee and third place to Diane Sorentino (80). The Junior Champion was Cory Kruse

**US OPEN Main Event Results**

	RED	WHT	BLUE	Total
HOA TRÉ SIDES	62	62	62	186
RU CHRIS MC CLELLAND	59	62	64	185
3rd ALBERT BOGETTI JR	63	58	63	184
<b>Class M</b>				
M1 RICK CAMUGLIA	61	60	61	182
M2 BOBBY V FOWLER	61	57	64	182
M3 SCOTT ROBERTSON	61	59	61	181
M4 MICK HOWELLS	62	58	60	180
M5 ANTHONY MATARESE JR	60	61	58	179
<b>Class AA</b>				
AA1 KEITH GOUTREAU	53	61	54	168
AA2 CHAD LA FLEUR	60	55	50	165
AA3 WYATT HEPPER	56	57	52	165
AA4 JOHN SPIARS	55	57	51	163
AA5 CHRIS FORD	55	51	56	162
<b>Class A</b>				
A1 G HARRIS MC GOUGH	56	55	47	158
A2 J WILLIAM HENDERSON	53	54	50	157
A3 CHRIS KRAMER	53	51	51	155
A4 BAXTER L CANADY	55	57	42	154
A5 JIM ROWELL	57	48	45	150
<b>Class B</b>				
B1 WILLY CHERRY	57	50	49	156
B2 JUSTIN FOX	48	52	56	156
B3 LOGAN GASKINS	53	50	51	154
B4 DOUG JACKSON	51	54	48	153
B5 RICK IZARD	52	48	50	150
<b>Class C</b>				
C1 DAVID SIMERKA	47	51	56	154
C2 BRYAN GUTERMUTH	55	52	47	154
C3 TREY WILLIAMS	53	49	49	151
C4 RANDY DOTSON	51	50	45	146
C5 WAGNER E PERES	47	48	50	145
<b>Class D</b>				
D1 PAMELA W LEE	47	47	42	136
D2 CHARLES E RAY	51	38	46	135
D3 TODD KRAMER	41	43	50	134
D4 MICHAEL SOILEAU	45	41	45	131
D5 ANGEL RAMOS	48	39	43	130
<b>Class E</b>				
E1 WILLIAM C HARRIS	48	42	47	137
E2 JOE WILLIAMS	50	44	38	132
E3 JIM MAXEY	47	36	49	132
E4 CODY DURIO	44	37	44	125
E5 MATT DAVIDSON	37	41	44	122
<b>LADY CHAMPION</b>				
DIANE S NELSON	54	52	62	168
2nd DIANE M SORANTINO	55	59	51	165
3rd JAMIE RIGGS	57	52	53	162
<b>US OPEN SUB JR CHAMPION</b>				
HUNTER EPPERSON	52	51	55	158
2nd J WILLIAM HENDERSON	53	54	50	157
3rd JUSTIN FOX	48	52	56	156
<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION</b>				
CHRIS MC CLELLAND	59	62	64	185
2nd R TRAVIS MEARS	59	58	55	172
3rd BRANDON POWELL	62	53	56	171
<b>VETERAN CHAMPION</b>				
VANCE L BARNES	57	55	62	174
2nd MARK L KIDDIE	58	56	60	174
3rd ROBERT L DAVIS	54	58	59	171
<b>SUPER VETERAN CHAMPION</b>				
RONALD SHAFER	57	45	56	158
2nd GARY M MC STAY	57	49	52	158
3rd GENE SEARS	58	50	49	157

with a fine score of 91, with Brandon Powell and Gebben Miles both tied at 90 for second and third.

All the shooters scores and the other events such as the sub-gauge, and side by side can be found in their entirety on Lois Lessing's web site: [www.wyshotgun.com](http://www.wyshotgun.com).

**LOOKING BACK**

American Shooting Centers is no stranger to large tournaments. Their food service and attention to detail in the overall operation of multiple events is generally as good as it gets. With the exception of some negative opinions on the quality of the Main Event targets, the shoot was run extremely well – with the overly hot and humid weather an act of God, and nothing more. If there were to be any suggestions made for further large events on these grounds, the management might consider hosting earlier in the year, before the summer sun, heat and humidity become a factor. Also, the awards ceremony and shoot-offs need to be condensed into a shorter time period – as many of the award winners had left the range headed for plane reservations, home or anticipating long drives. The awards lasted until 8.40pm in the evening and at some point became embarrassing as to how many winners had already left – including the over-all Champion. However, some of the responsibility still remains with the shooters and winners to have the courtesy to receive their awards, or to recognize those who win with encouragement of applause.

ASC did an excellent job of hosting this tournament. Their hospitality was genuine and sincere and they did all in their power to keep the shooters well watered, fed and moving through the courses under extreme conditions. Here's to a job well done! ■