

BIGGER AND BETTER!

STEVE FISCHER REPORTS FROM THE 2004 NSCA NATIONALS



Even having attended this annual event ten or more times, it still holds a lot of excitement and anticipation for me – and for many others I am sure. After all, it is the ‘Nationals’, and this is where it all gets settled; the year’s top gun, personal bests and bragging rights in every class and concurrent for the next year and more. Tales both tall and true will continue well into the winter months when many shooters put up their gear and guns while the snow flies and the wind blows cold. For some, the warm glow of success will carry them through the winter. For others, perhaps these one or two lost targets (that could have made the difference) will serve to inspire them to reach deeper next time.

AS ANOTHER SHOOTING YEAR WINDS DOWN, SEPTEMBER ALWAYS MARKS THE LONG ANTICIPATED NATIONAL SPORTING CLAYS CHAMPIONSHIP. THE NATIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX IN SAN ANTONIO, HOME OF THE NSCA AND THE NSSA, OPENED THE GATES AND INVITED ONE AND ALL TO COME AND TEST THEIR SKILLS IN WHAT WAS, THIS YEAR, THE LARGEST EVER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Although it has again been decided to end the shooting year on December 31st, this Championship is usually considered to be the last 'major' shoot of the year. The change back to ending the shooting year in

B to E class. The largest class attendance was in the Master's – 248 in the Main Event. The second most popular event each year is the K-Kup. It's a 100 target sporting event held on its own course and features what is usually considered

to be the best targets of the entire event. Again, the ratio of shooters was about 60 percent from A to Master class and about 40 percent from B to E.

Let's take a quick look at what the National Championship had to



TOP MAN, JOE CAREY.

December, rather than the end of September, will give headquarters more time to better and more accurately get everyone classified and allow ample time to mail out next year's rules, schedules and other NSCA pertinent business.

This time around – for those of you who like to see stats and data – over 1,300 competitors, in all events, attended this year's Nationals. A fantastic 1,214 entries took part in the Main Event and 1,053 did the Krieghoff 'K- Kup'. FITASC found 460 brave souls venture forth and there were 483 guns for the 5-stand competition. The sub-gauge events averaged about 250 shooters per gauge and some 300 'newbies' shot the Nationals for the very first time.

The breakdown in the classes worked out at about 60 percent of the competitors in A through Master class and 40 percent from



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offer. Besides the Main Event, which was 300 targets shot 75 each day over four days, there was a Pre-lim – better known as the K-Kup – a 5-stand 100 target event, a 100 target four Parcour (old style) FITASC and 100 target sub-gauge events for the .410, 28 gauge and 20 gauge. There were ample warm-up 5-stands running daily, as well as two 'Make-A-Break' games, one for AA and Master class shooters and the second for everyone else. There were several long shot and skill games with prize money paid out daily.

The 'Make-a Break' game is an overdue but welcome addition to the Nationals program – particularly as it is one of the fastest growing and certainly a very popular game found at most other major tournaments. It is both a fine game of skill and also a good warm-up for the shooters. In the main game, the top eight shooters' scores out of a possible 65 points compete for a collective purse funded by an additional (and optional) charge when signing up. The additional funds go into a purse that the top eight shooters compete for in an additional round of the game. The \$650 purse this year was won at the Saturday night shoot off by Herbie 'The Haitian Sensation' Kanzki after beating a formidable list of competitors. Here's hoping 'Make-A-Break' will become a permanent addition to the Nationals.

BIGGER AND BETTER!

The National Shooting Complex has made some significant improvements to both the grounds and the equipment since last year's event. Problematic machines, like the well-worn wheel launched rabbit, were notable in their absence and quite a number of new machines had been purchased which helped considerably to keep things running far more smoothly than in previous years. Food service was provided by A-0 BAR catering and was very good – fast and reasonably priced. Food service had been a sore spot for some time and the A-0 Bar people were a welcomed improvement.

Depending on who you talked to, the change of sides for the vendors from East of the main mall to the West side by the shoot-off arena was not as good for business as when they were closer to the practice and 5-stand event. There was a bit more shade and

space on the West, but less foot traffic which probably didn't help sales. This may be something that the planners need to look at again as there were a few vendors that I spoke to that were not at all pleased with the change.

Again, depending on who you talked to, the Saturday Banquet was rated as fair, but not outstanding. No one had any problems with the door prize drawings though, other than for most of us it always seems to be the other guy or girl who wins when it comes to drawings! If there was only one happy camper at the drawings it had to be Ed Munford, since he was the winner of the GMC Truck. Now that was a lucky draw!

THE K-KUP

Always a favorite event, the K-Kup drew over 1,000 shooters. Those who shot early in the week, even up until Friday, found the temperature a bit more moderate than usual, but by Saturday and Sunday the heat and humidity index was about normal for San Antonio – Mucho Caliente! The course this year was pretty well liked by most shooters,



LEON TAN IN FULL FOCUS ON THE K-KUP COURSE.

even though it appeared to be slightly softer than last year's presentations – 42 Masters and two AA class shooters managed to break the 90 barrier.

Andy Duffy showed us all how it's done by posting a superb 98, three ahead of Runner-up Brandon Powell and Tony Rivera in third. As a sign of things to come, four of the top 10 scores in the K-Kup were shot by Juniors, showing the incredible talent and strength coming up through the ranks. Well done Brandon Powell (95), Broc Kyhn (M1-95), Chris McClelland (M4-94) and Hub Johnson (M9-94). The Ladies concurrent found Janet Tausch HOA at 87 with Linda Joy Sosebee Runner-up at 85. The Sub-Juniors are also showing signs of real muscle with Champion William Henderson shooting a fine 89 followed by Runner-up Joey Bolton (85). The kids are getting tough!!

In the Super-Veteran category, Mr. Shotgun himself, Gene Sears, topped the list at 89 with Dick Phillips second (86). Vance Barnes took the honors in the Veterans concurrent with a fine score of 90.

FITASC – ANOTHER WINNER!

This year's FITASC Parcours were probably some of the best set targets in many a year. No longer the soft, 'sporting from a hoop' as in previous years. These targets were the way FITASC targets are supposed to be – challenging! On the West Parcours, set for the Masters, AA class and concurrents, the setter's favorite target seemed to be a long, fast midi, found on every Parcour. It was sent climbing and quartering from Parcours 1 and 2 and off the tower on 3 and 4. Also in the mix was an excellent mini and a cranked up rabbit on Parcour 4 while elsewhere there were several real knee-knockers that you had to hit for a real good score!

Scores off the West course

suggested that Parcours 1 and 2 were a target or so tougher than 3 and 4. Only two straights were recorded – by Craig Hill on Parcour 4 and by Cory Kruse on Parcour 2 who subsequently finish HOA on 94 (22, 25, 24, 23), just one target ahead of Anthony Matarese Jr. Craig Hill (92) won Masters and Mike Classen, in AA class, was in consistent form (19, 20, 20, 21) taking his class honors one target ahead of Ray Rawlins. Concurrent winners were Jamie Riggs (L-80), Brandon Powell (J-91), Bruce Scott (V-86) and Bill Wall (SV-81).

Over on the East course the targets for the A-E classes were challenging enough, but thoroughly entertaining. Parcours 1 and 2 were softer than 3 and 4. In fact only ten competitors broke the 20 barrier on Parcour 4 with the best performances coming from Stephen Van Helden (B class) and Kirk Floeck (C class) that both shot 23s on this tricky Parcour. Bryan Bracht (82) took the A class honors while elsewhere the winners were Colton Flint (B1-84), Floeck (C1-78), Dennis Taylor (D1-69) and Kyle Wandlear (E1-70).

THE 5-STAND EVENT

As in FITASC, the 5-stand event was split into two separate events – with A to E class on one course and AA and Masters on another. With the newest of the sporting games being Compak Sporting, there is every possibility that 5-stand will very shortly find some changes made to its name and how it is formatted. But still popular in its present form, 783 shooters tried their skills on the 100 target layouts. On the Lower Course for the E through A class shooters, Bill Holland took A1 honors with a fine score of 90. Cary Skaggs (91) won B class, Rusty Bivin (88) was C class winner, James Moody (85) took D class and Mario Barrera

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(80) won E class.

On the Upper course, straights on layouts 2 and 3 from Bobby Fowler and an excellent combined score of 97 saw him take HOA on some very tough targets. David Niederer took the Runner-up spot with a 95 and Anthony Matarese Jr. was third with 94. A pair of 92s split M1 and M2 between Tony Rivera and Federico Del Toro with Christopher Fejes Jr. taking AA1 with 85.

In the concurrents, Lady winner was Jaime Riggs (81), Chris McClelland (91) won the Juniors and the Sub-Junior winner was Logan Gaskins (85). Super-Veterans was won by Gary McStay (79) and the Veteran winner was Gene Sherrod (86).

SUB-GAUGE EVENTS

Without doubt, shooting the 'little guns' is still alive and strong – just short of 750 competitors entered the 20, 28, and .410 events. Of the 249 contestants in the 20 gauge event, Jake Montgomery took HOA with a 93. In the 28 gauge event Bo Powell topped a field of 279 shooters with a fine 96. In the 'pea-shooter' .410 event, Doug Fuller put up an impressive 96 with this diminutive gun for HOA.

GREEN, YELLOW, RED AND ORANGE

The Main Event was shot 75 targets per day over four courses – Green, Yellow, Red and Orange. Almost unanimously, the shooters voted the Green course as the hardest of the four, with Red second, followed by Yellow and then Orange. On the whole, this year's selection of targets were an improvement over past years. Each course had its good and occasionally not so good presentations.

The Green course found much



of its difficulty in the fact that the second shot on a rather large number of true pair stations was some type of falling bird. Only six Master class shots and one AA class shooter managed to break 70/75 or more. A hot and low left to right midi crossing shot on the pond, below the skeet houses, at about station 9 or 10 gave plenty of shooters white knuckles!

The Red course had some tougher shots with an abundance of quartering or trap type presentations and a trio of going away high tower pairs that did

damage to the score cards of many. Nine Masters managed 70/75 or more with Jeff Doyle posting the highest score of 73 and Craig Hill and Bode Porter both posting highs of 72.

The Yellow course began to drift to the softer presentations, yet had a couple of very edgy droppers that took their toll, along with a couple of true pair rising shots that would leave the shooter indecisive as to which target to take first. Scores of 70/75 or more were recorded by 31 competitors with Anthony Matarese Jr. and Byron Justice

both putting 73s on the scoreboard.

The Orange course was frankly speaking, far too easy – with some 45 competitors breaking the 70/75 barrier, topped by a 75/75 from Joe Carey. While not intending in any way to diminish Joe's superb accomplishment, one would think that a National Championship

combined total of 287 for the National title, my next question to Joe would be, "How does it fit?"

Our heartiest congratulations go out to Joe Carey and to all the winners in this the most prestigious event of the U.S. Sporting year! All results are shown in our Championship Results Panel.



TOP HONORS IN THE MAIN EVENT WENT TO (L-R) BRANDON POWELL – RUNNER-UP, JOE CAREY – NATIONAL CHAMPION AND BOBBY FOWLER – SECOND RUNNER-UP.

course would not find a perfect score posted. The presentations offered on this course would put the shooter in the position, too often, of trying not to miss rather than trying to hit the targets. The going away overhead tower shots on station four were the most challenging of the presentations on the course, and for many shooters a good score could be had if these shots were negotiated well.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

In our last issue, our Shooter Spotlight interviewed the Carey brothers – and one of the last things Joe said when asked if there was an event or title he hadn't won that he would like to have, his reply was, "The Nationals – I'd like to get that ring." Now that his dream has come true, posting an excellent 69, 75, 72 and 71 for a

A POINT OF VIEW ON REVIEW

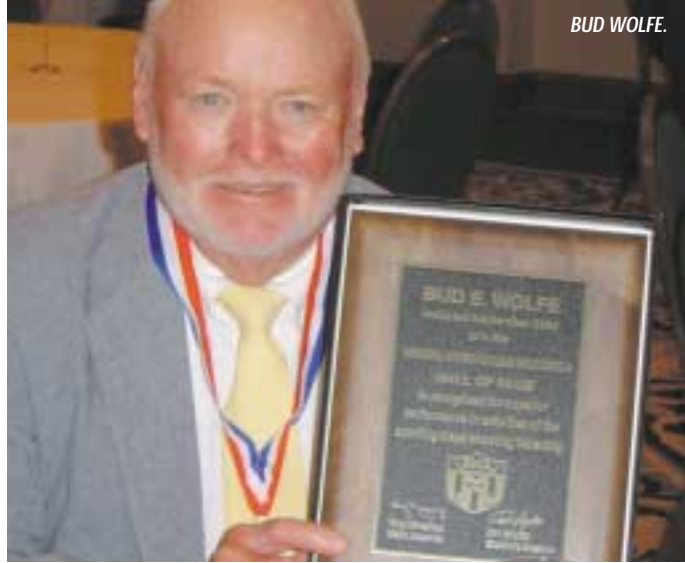
Now that the 2004 Nationals are history, a couple of thoughts come to mind. This year's tournament was a definite improvement over the last – and over several previous National Championships as well. On the whole, it ran smoother with less delays. The staff worked their collective tails off to help this shoot run well and the trappers were better trained this time – and it showed. Headquarters wisely brought in Lois Lessing to help with the incredible task of collecting and processing the scores of some 1300 shooters that were quickly collated and posted. Even the weather gave us a break, with at least a few days of milder weather and no rain. The banquet held to honor Bud Wolfe and Sandy Woods into the Sporting Clays Hall of Fame was also first



A TRUE PAIR OVERHEAD FROM BEHIND THE SHOOTER WERE PROBABLY THE TOUGHEST TARGETS ON THE ORANGE COURSE.

rate – and the recipients well chosen. And last but not least, the trophies and awards were absolutely beautiful, making this year's Nationals one of the best in memory.

With all the many improvements and advancements made, there is still one area that could make this event equal or better than the best of the bigger tournaments. Target difficulty. As an example of my point, the top gun averaged a whopping 96 percent average over the 300 targets this year. The Master class winner average was 94 percent, AA – 88 percent, A – 87 percent, B – 89 percent, C – 82 percent, D – 78 percent and E – 75 percent. These averages reflect those found at local club tournaments and are probably higher than many of the



scores shot on any given weekend tournament. By increasing the level of challenge to the shooter by just 2 to 3 targets on each course, the shooters would benefit from

fewer ties, more entertaining targets and better separation in the scores. Secondly, in the mix of targets offered this year there was an overabundance of trap type

shots, true pairs and quartering shots. As a suggestion, the addition of a crosser or two and perhaps a nice chandelle or some other specialty type presentation would spice up the entertainment level and at the same time increase the difficulty level just enough to equal or match some of the other major tournaments.

That being said, and given in the spirit of constructive criticism, the fact still remains that this year's National Championship was one of the best – and set a new attendance record.

Congratulations to the National Shooting Complex staff for providing the shooters with a great time and a fine Championship and special thanks to the many sponsors who helped to make this shoot possible and close out the season with a bang! ■

THE RESULTS FROM THE 2004 NSCA NATIONALS

MAIN EVENT RESULTS

JOSEPH A CAREY	287
BRANDON POWELL	284
BOBBY FOWLER	284
M1 ANTHONY MATARESE JR	282
M2 RICK CAMUGLIA	279
M3 JON KRUGER	279
AA1 KENNETH W KASSEL	264
AA2 F M ROBERSON	263
AA3 JAMES A SEVERIN	255
A1 LANDY PONDER	262
A2 JOSH J TAYLOR	256
A3 RUSS JOBES	250
B1 CARY SKAGGS	267
B2 CAREY PERRY	245
B3 BRENT SIZEMORE	244
C1 BRANDON BARTEL	246
C2 DAVID BOYER	238
C3 RUSTY BIVIN	233
D1 DENNIS J TAYLOR	233
D2 JOHN TAYLOR	232
D3 DALE BULLION	231
E1 J R ROBINETT	224
E2 ANDREW POLLARD	222
E3 MARIO R BARRERA	217
L1 JAMIE RIGGS	259
L2 DIANE M SORANTINO	249
L3 CASEY O ATKINSON	241
SJ1 HUNTER EPPERSON	249
SJ2 CRAIG R O'SHEA	249
SJ3 MICHAEL REDMANN	247
J1 BRANDON POWELL	279
J2 CONNOR OMAN	273
J3 CHRIS MCCLELLAND	273
V1 MIKE BITTMANN	273
V2 TIM MURPHY	267
V3 STEVE FISCHER	264
SV1 RONALD SHAFER	255
SV2 ROBERT L OLIVER	254
SV3 JOHN W FARRELL	249
INT1 DAMIEN BIRGAN	275
INT2 FEDERICO DEL TORO	268
INT3 BEN BRUNTON	264
WHEELCHAIR1 JEFF WISCHMAN	224

K-KUP RESULTS

ANDY DUFFY	98
BRANDON POWELL	95
TONY G RIVERA	95
M1 BROCK KYHN	95
M2 BYRON JUSTICE	95
M3 STEVEN W NELSON	94
AA1 KEITH GOUTREAU	93
AA2 KEN NAIL	90
AA3 DOUGLAS F ROBARE	89

A1 JEFF PATE	88
A2 ROBERT GERETY	87
A3 BRYAN BRACHT	87
B1 BRENT SIZEMORE	86
B2 FRED QUARLES	84
B3 ANTHONY M ORME	83
C1 AARON R HOLDER	84
C2 MICHAEL WEAVER	84
C3 RODNEY BERROCAL	82
D1 JOHN TAYLOR	81
D2 WILLY T RIBBS	75
D3 BILL PECK	75
E1 KYLE WANDELLEAR	73
E2 DWIGHT LUMPKINS	71
E3 MARIO R BARRERA	71
L1 JANET TAUSCH	87
L2 LINDA A JOY	85
L3 MARI K MC STAY	82
SJ1 J WILLIAM HENDERSON	89
SJ2 JOEY BOLTON	85
SJ3 LOGAN GASKINS	85
J1 BRANDON POWELL	95
J2 BROCK KYHN	95
J3 CHRIS MC CLELLAND	94
V1 VANCE L BARNES	90
V2 DOUGLAS F ROBARE	89
V3 ROBERT B JONES	89
SV1 GENE SEARS	89
SV2 DICK PHILLIPS	86
SV3 RONALD SHAFER	86

5-STAND UPPER

BOBBY FOWLER	97
DAVID NIEDERER	95
ANTHONY MATERESE JR	94
M1 TONY G RIVERA	92
M2 FEDERICO DEL TORO	92
M3 CHRIS MC CLELLAND	91
AA1 CHRISTOPHER J FEJES JR	85
AA2 JOHN A FOX	85
AA3 NOLAN WILLIAMSON	84
L1 JAMIE RIGGS	81
L2 CINDY BARTON	79
L3 TRICIA KOCUREK	79
SJ1 LOGAN GASKINS	85
SJ2 J WILLIAM HENDERSON	82
SJ3 MYLES MILLER	79
J1 CHRIS MC CLELLAND	91
J2 LEON TAN	89
J3 R TRAVIS MEARS	88
V1 GENE A SHERROD	86
V2 ROBERT L DAVIS	86
V3 MIKE HAMPTON	85
SV1 GARY M MC STAY	79
SV2 ROBERT DICKSON	76
SV3 CESAR R ATHIE	76

5-STAND LOWER

A1 BILL HOLLAND	90
A2 DOUGLAS L PYLE	89
A3 WELDON D NICHOLS	89
B1 CARY SKAGGS	91
B2 BRENT SIZEMORE	90
B3 ANTHONY M ORME	88
C1 RUSTY BIVIN	88
C2 DAVID BOYER	86
C3 BRANDON BARTEL	84
D1 JAMES W MOODY	85
D2 KEVIN BOWKER	80
D3 JOHN WALTERS	80
E1 MARIO R BARRERA	80
E2 JOE STANSFIELD	77
E3 DWIGHT LUMPKINS	77

20 GAUGE RESULTS

JAKE MONTGOMERY	93
BO POWELL	93
DOUG FULLER	90
M1 DAVID W SCHMIDT	90
AA1 BRYAN LAWS	86
A1 WELDON D NICHOLS	87
B1 TOM JACKSON	80
C1 SIDNEY LYONS	76
D1 JAMES W MOODY	78
E1 JOE STANSFIELD	75
L1 DONNA G LEWELLEN	67
SJ1 MICHAEL REDMANN	79
J1 JAKE MONTGOMERY	93
V1 DAVID W SCHMIDT	90
SV1 TOM JACKSON	80

28 GAUGE RESULTS

BO POWELL	96
BRAD BELCHER JR	93
BRIAN HUGHES	92
M1 KIM SPOHN	91
AA1 RON REIBER	88
A1 WESLEY WILCOX	89
B1 TONY MORROW	84
C1 JAMES A HITCHCOCK	76
D1 JOHNNY DURY	80
E1 DWIGHT LUMPKINS	72
L1 DONNA G LEWELLEN	80
SJ1 WESLEY WILCOX	89
J1 CHRISTOPHER J FEJES JR	88
V1 RON REIBER	88
SV1 JOHN W DIGIGLIA	78

.410 BORE RESULTS

DOUG FULLER	96
BRIAN HUGHES	92
RON REIBER	92

M1 STEVE A KNOLL	91
AA1 TODD KEMMERER	91
A1 WELDON D NICHOLS	86
B1 PAUL WARD	80
C1 BRECK HELMS	85
D1 JOLLIE HICKLE	84
E1 DON REEVES	70
L1 TINA WILLIAMS	78
SJ1 WESLEY WILCOX	85
J1 GREG JACKSON	86
V1 RON REIBER	92
SV1 TROY PEAK	83

FITASC WEST

CORY KRUSE	94
ANTHONY MATERESE JR	93
DIEGO DUARTE	92
M1 CRAIG HILL	92
M2 STEVEN W NELSON	90
M3 HERBERT KANZKI	89
AA1 MIKE CLASSEN	80
AA2 RAY RAWLINS	79
AA3 SAM C BENNETT	78
L1 JAMIE RIGGS	80
L2 LINDA A JOY	79
L3 DIANE M SORANTINO	76
J1 BRANDON POWELL	91
J2 COLE STOREY	87
J3 DERRICK MEIN	82
V1 BRUCE SCOTT	86
V2 MIKE BITTMANN	85
V3 GERALD L PERZYK	81
SV1 BILL WALL	81
SV2 ROBERT L OLIVER	80
SV3 RONALD SHAFER	77

FITASC EAST

A1 BRYAN BRACHT	82
A2 RANDY WRIGHT	80
A3 WILLIAM FALLS	80
B1 COLTON FLINT	84
B2 BRYAN GUTERMUTH	77
B3 JODY PLONSKI	76
C1 KIRK FLOECK	78
C2 BOBBY SHUEY	76
C3 MATT BERRY	76
D1 DENNIS J TAYLOR	69
D2 FRANK M GROSS	68
D3 MARK GAUDING	68
E1 KYLE WANDELLEAR	70
E2 CHUCK SMITH	64
E3 WILEY KIMBELL	61