

OHIO CUP

TOM THOMPSON REPORTS FROM MAD RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB, OHIO



IT'S A TRADITION. SOME SQUADS SHOOT TOGETHER YEAR AFTER YEAR AT THE OHIO CUP. THIS SQUAD WAS PARTICIPATING IN THEIR EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR AT THE FATHER'S DAY EVENT.



The 2007 Ohio Cup goes to George Quigley Jr. (above). Shooting with his Dad on Father's Day, George shot eight birds better than he did last year to move up from Master 1st to High Over-All with a score of 88. Quigley Senior took A class third with an 80 and finished second in the Super Veteran chase.

No less than ten pairings of 'Father and Child' were counted among the 212 participants. For many, shooting Mad River's Ohio Cup together on this special day is a family tradition. For as long as she's been shooting, Eva Hudgins,

Ladies Champion, has attended the Ohio Cup with her Dad, Dave (M2). Families must plan early to shoot this event – the fifteenth annual Ohio Cup sold out early in January.

This event has a loyal following, and many of the same squads shoot together year after year. Because of this constancy, the shoot invites comparisons. Bobby James, last year's SJ Champion achieved a six target rise above last year that was good enough to earn him Junior Champion award and fifth place on the B class podium. Last year's winner Rick Merb, who only shot 400 registered targets since the last Cup, reversed his score this year, finishing with a 78 after winning in '06 with 87.

Winning scores in '07 were up from '06 – with HOA only one



THE ROLLING HILLS OF LOGAN COUNTY ARE PROMINENT IN THE BACKGROUND OF MAD RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB'S VISTA VIEW.

GREAT LIGHTING ON A TOUGH STATION GIVES SHOOTERS AN ADVANTAGE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.



target up, to E class with five birds more, every class winner was ahead of last year's pace. Eighties were nonetheless at a premium – only 21 shooters reached this magical plateau. Steve Sanford's 80 in C class was as far down the list as the eighties went. No other shooter dominated their class to the extent Sanford did – finishing seven ahead of Wes Bates (73) in second place.

NO EXCUSES

Mad River's course was at its best. Manager Tony Stratton and his crew prepared new target concepts and interesting challenges. Off speed mixtures were the repeating factor to overcome this year. Matched neatly to the ups and downs of Logan County's rolling terrain, shooters frequently found themselves losing out to mismatched birds. It is an old refrain at this shoot, but "if it weren't for the easy gimmies I lost, my score would have been right up there." Like thieves, they picked



our pocket for a couple of birds here and a couple more there, and in the end most of us lost twenty-some or thirty-some.

There were no easy excuses to lay it on, slight breeze – no real extremes in the weather – no mechanical failures or long delays. The shoot ran perfectly. Some may

LARRY MIZEK'S SHIRT PROCLAIMS "HAPPINESS IS A WARM 12 GAUGE". HE BUYS INTO THE PHILOSOPHY BY COMPETING IN THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL OHIO CUP AT MAD RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB. HIS ENTIRE SQUAD GETS TOGETHER EVERY YEAR FOR THE EVENT THAT USUALLY SELLS OUT BY MID-WINTER.



DAVE AND EVA HUDGINS SHOOT A PRACTICE ROUND ON THE MAKE A BREAK.

have found the summer heat-wave problematic. High temperatures in the low nineties were tempered by a nice breeze up the valley. Showers predicted for the late afternoon failed to develop.

Saturday's small gauge events were nicely divided. Larry Welti took HOA with 125. His 47 won the 20 gauge event and set the pace for

him to take the three gun total. Rob Foli got the 28 gauge purse with 47. Gary Schmidthorst dominated the .410 division with a 41 that gave him a three bird margin over Dave Hudgins, Gene Goodwin and Bill Straub.

Ohio NSCA delegate Bill Harsha's 84 tied Galen Thompson for high gun in the Main Event's AA class. The tie breaker gave first

place to Thompson, but Harsha shared the punches equally, pushing him into Master class just days before he was to compete in the US Open. The pair of them each captured concurrent gold, as Harsha took home the Veteran's trophy and Thompson headed up the Super Veterans.

The Ohio Cup offers one of the richest purses in the Midwest. Generous payouts are certainly a contributing factor to the shoot selling out four months early. The Cup is Mad River's premier shooting event going back to the early days of sporting clays in Ohio. The facility covers 300 acres of rolling hills near the highest point in Ohio, two miles east of Bellefontaine. The membership club has many events open to the public, and a list of those can be obtained from the club. ■
(www.maddriverssportsmansclub.com)

OHIO CUP CLASS RESULTS

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|----|
| CH | GEORGE QUIGLEY JR. | 88 |
| RU | ROBERT HARFORD | 85 |
| M1 | BILL MAYER | 84 |
| M2 | DAVID HUDGINS | 82 |
| M3 | RICK REISS II | 82 |
| AA1 | GALEN THOMPSON | 84 |
| AA2 | BILL HARSHA | 84 |
| AA3 | JEFF HUM | 81 |
| A1 | ROB FOLI | 81 |
| A2 | ROBERT SMITH | 80 |
| A3 | GEORGE QUIGLEY SR. | 80 |
| B1 | ROD DROUSE | 83 |
| B2 | LARRY HOLYCROSS | 82 |
| B3 | GREG RINEHART | 81 |
| C1 | STEVE SANFORD | 80 |
| C2 | WES BATES | 73 |
| C3 | GERALD BENNETT | 72 |
| D1 | RON COCHRAN | 75 |
| D2 | JON WREEDE | 75 |
| D3 | GENE GOODWIN | 72 |
| E1 | ALAN EICKHOLT | 70 |
| E2 | BILL REISS | 70 |
| E3 | TERRY LAMP | 69 |

CONCURRENTS

| | | |
|----|----------------|----|
| J | BOBBY JAMES | 76 |
| L | EVA HUDGINS | 70 |
| SV | GALEN THOMPSON | 84 |
| V | BILL HARSHA | 84 |