

What do you call almost a week of shooting in bluebird weather with sunny skies, cool temperatures and no rain? Why, none other than the 2007 U.S. Open of course!

George and Patti Hopkins couldn't have mail ordered for better weather than they had while hosting the 2007 U.S. Open at Hopkins Game Farm in Kennedyville, Maryland. As memory serves, the last Open held there has gone down in history as one of the wettest, muddiest and most miserable of shooting conditions to ever plague a shooting competition.

As the saying goes, *"The hardest lessons learned are often the first remembered"*. It was quite evident to those of us who attended that storm ravaged tournament that this event was planned with the previous Open in mind. The long narrow driveway leading to the parking area was now twice as wide and the parking area and food court was covered in gravel to

avoid it becoming a mud pit. Although the weather never became an issue, the changes made to the grounds only served to make this excellent facility even better.

For those who have never journeyed to Hopkins Game Farm, it is interesting to note that besides several excellent sporting courses and the fine shooting offered, the grounds are a fully working farm, raising multiple crops each year. In fact, many of this year's events were shot over rising corn fields or huge fields of wheat, just about ready for harvest. This sprawling property is also dotted with several ponds and densely wooded areas, as well as some excellent terrain features that serve to enhance target presentations.

Some 855 competitors came to try their skills at the many events offered at this year's Open. We were treated to some excellent competition targets, as well as a new and much welcomed addition

of a 50 target practice course available every day. There were three practice 5-Stands, as well as a "Make-A-Break" competition, and a very testy "Hopkins Challenge" layout with some seriously long and tough shots. The Main Event was 200 targets set over 3 courses and three days, complemented by a 100 target FITASC, 100 bird 5-Stand, 50 target sub-gauge layouts and a 100 target Pre-lim.

PRE-LIM RESULTS

CH	BOBBY FOWLER JR.	95
2ND	ANDY DUFFY	94
M1	JACK CONCANNON	94
AA1	JAN KULHAY	85
A1	MICAH PARKER	85
B1	JERRY BULTER	82
C1	GARRETT GUTIERREZ	77
D1	SHAWN NORDHOFF	77
E1	NICK MICHAEL	69
L	ASHLEIGH HAFLEY	85
SJ	DAVID RADULOVICH	86
J	CHRIS McCLELLAND	91
V	JACK CONCANNON	94
SV	VIC AMEYE	87

STEVE FISCHER REPORTS FROM THE 2007 U.S. OPEN

HIGH MARKS FOR HOPKINS





SOME SAID TARGETS WERE HARD TO SEE, FLASHING BETWEEN PATCHES OF DARKNESS AND INTO SLIVERS OF LIGHT THAT PENETRATED THE CANOPY OF THE TREES.

LET'S GET IT ON

Aside from the fact that there were quite a number of early arrivals who shot the 5-Stand or FITASC event on Tuesday or Wednesday, the actual tournament began on Thursday with the Pre-lim. 532 shooters ventured onto a typical 'George Hopkins' course that without being overly tough, still gave the shooters an inkling of what would be coming later in the Main Event. As always, the targets gave the shooter all the opportunities to perform, and those who didn't could consider the Pre-lim as a wake-up call.

Not unexpectedly, this early event found some very familiar names at the top of the leader board. Bobby Fowler Jr. took HOA with 95, followed by Andy Duffy and Jack Concannon (94) – putting them into Runner-up and Master first, respectively.

In the concurrents, Ashleigh Hafley's 85 was the first of several trips to the podium for awards, while Debbie Wall (81) took second place followed by Deborah Fleming (80). Sub-Junior winner was David Radulovich (86) while in the Juniors, Chris McClelland took top honors with 91. Concannon took home the Veteran title (to go with his Master first) with Bob Davis in second (89) and Richard Lanzilotta (87) in third. Vic Ameye's 87 was good for Super-Veteran honors, followed by Gene A. Sherrod (86) and Joe Cantey III (83).

LONG LIVE 5-STAND

I think it's safe to say that the once highly touted game of Compak Sporting is just about dead and our 5-Stand game is returning once again to the spotlight. Far more user friendly, both for shooter and



HUB JOHNSON ABOUT TO NAIL A FAST ONE ON THE 5-STAND!

host alike, 5-Stand is just a better game all around – and far more acceptable to the majority of competitors.

That said, there were mixed emotions and opinions regarding

drawer and deserve high praise. In the concurrents, Maureen Daane (82) won Ladies, Super-Veteran honors went to James Bowers (82), while Veteran winner was Gary Greenway (89). Chris McClelland (92) topped the Juniors and Taylor Set Duhon (86) won Sub-Juniors.

5-STAND RESULTS

CH	ANTHONY MATARESE JR.	97
2ND	SCOTT ROBERTSON	96
M1	CHARLES PEEBLES	94
AA1	TAYLOR SET DUHON	86
A1	CARL MYERS	86
B1	DAVID FUNDERBURKE	78
C1	DWIGHT LUMPKINS	77
D1	MATTHEW DISOTELL	71
E1	DAVID GOCKEN	70
L	MAUREEN DAANE	82
SJ	TAYLOR SET DUHON	86
J	CHRIS MCCLELLAND	92
V	GARY GREENWAY	89
SV	JAMES BOWERS	82

FURIOUS FITASC

George Hopkins, long famous for setting some of the finest FITASC targets to be found anywhere, didn't disappoint. Using land not used for previous FITASC events, he set four Parcours for all to enjoy. Each layout had its own personality, giving shooters a different mix of presentations that were found to be entertaining as

well as challenging. Parcour 1 would prove to be the most challenging of the four – a breathtaking right to left crosser at about 40 yards, a long and high 90mm chandelle at about the same

country’s top FITASC shooters, captured the HOA title and gold medal with 92. Scott Robertson followed closely, one back at 91, and Wayne Davis (90) took third, tied with Junior shooter Theo

McClelland (89) second and David Radulovich third (83). Ashleigh Hafley took Ladies with an 81. Diane Sorantino and Debbie Wall were second and third with 78 and 77 respectively.



FITASC RESULTS		
CH	WENDELL CHERRY	92
2ND	SCOTT ROBERTSON	91
M1	R. WAYNE DAVIS	90
AA1	JAN KULHAY	84
A1	MICAH PARKER	78
B1	JOHN GRIFFIN	76
C1	R. WAYNE WATSON	68
D1	MATTHEW DISOTELL	68
E1	MIKE LEWIS	62
L	ASHLEIGH HAFLEY	81
J	THEO RIBBS	90
V	WILLIAM AWVE	83
SV	JOE CANTEY III	80

distance, a fairly close edgy and fast rabbit, a hot quartering shot and a slow floppy to mess up your timing.

Some 365 competitors entered this event – only four shooters managed a 25 straight, with one each on layout 2 and 3 and two on layout 4. Overall, almost all of the competitors gave this event high marks and considered these targets to be some of the best set for a major shoot.

Wendell Cherry, proving once again that he is one of the

Ribbs and Will Fennell.

The Veteran’s concurrent found some new and fresh faces with William Awve (83) taking HOA, followed home by David De Fernelmont (81) and Robert Hickok (80). Joe Cantey III topped the Super-Veterans with an 89, while W. Ray Newman and Michael Taylor took second and third, tied at 79. A “one to watch” shooter rising in the Junior concurrent, Theo Ribbs, was good for both Junior Champion and Open class third, with Chris



GEORGE HOPKINS.

THE MAIN EVENT

Well, here we are! Three courses (Red, Blue and Green) and 200 targets are all that separates each competitor from fame and glory. With such well balanced courses, it would be hard to name the easiest or most difficult course. Each shooter’s limitations, strengths or weaknesses were questions on all three courses.

The Red course found most

US OPEN RESULTS

CH	JON KRUGER	193
2ND	BILL MCGUIRE	188
3RD	ANTHONY MATARESE JR.	188
M1	HUB JOHNSON	187
M2	SCOTT ROBERTSON	186
M3	ZACHARY KIENBAUM	185
AA1	SHAND SHARIF	177
AA2	BRIAN HORNACEK	172
AA3	SAMUEL DEARWECHTER	172
A1	CARL MYERS	162
A2	MICAH PARKER	161
A3	CLIFFORD ABEL	160
B1	DANIEL CURRY	162
B2	TIM McCLURE	161
B3	WILLIAM NIELSON	160
C1	JUSTIN KRALL	153
C2	MATTHEW POPE	150
C3	JAMES CURSON	146
D1	GARRY MORRISON	147
D2	KIRK SHEELEY	140
D3	DAVID KISTHARDT	139
E1	MIKE LEWIS	151
E2	MICHELLE CARLSON	142
E3	DAVID CALLAHAN	128
L1	JANET TAUSCH	167
L2	STEFANIE STEINKRAUS	166
L3	DIANE SORANTINO	161
SJ1	CASEY LYNCH	176
SJ2	DAVID RADULOVICH	175
SJ3	SCOTT CROOK	174
J1	HUB JOHNSON	187
J2	GREG JACKSON	179
J3	R. TRAVIS MEARS	177
V1	JACK CONCANNON	176
V2	JIMMY DICKSON	175
V3	BRUCE NEY	175
SV1	DAN CLUFF	178
SV2	GENE SHERROD	170
SV3	JAMES BOWERS	170

targets in the sky and well visible with probably the longest shots compared with the other two courses. The Blue course featured a couple of longer shots, high and away off a lift, but the bigger challenge to the shooters came deep within the “Black Hole of Calcutta” woods that both the Blue and Green Course featured for about 5 or 6 stations. Some said targets were hard to see, flashing between patches of darkness and into slivers of light that penetrated the canopy of the trees. Others professed to have no trouble as far as seeing the targets – I think the time of day was the deciding factor



for this anomaly in opinion.

Most comments were heard regarding a report pair of downhill fast rabbits that were unpredictable at best, sometimes rolling, sometimes hopping and bouncing their way quite quickly down a steep incline. The scorekeeper had his hands full in trying to score these shots, and there were, without doubt, some given and some taken on this station – but then, aren't rabbit stations always controversial?

The Green course had some tricky true pairs featured on a couple of elevated lifts that brought out the best or baffled the shooter, and were responsible for attitude adjustments in both directions – depending on how the shooter fared.

By Sunday afternoon, the usual suspects were once again found fighting for their rightful place in the Master class pecking order, but a few changes would be notable in some of the final concurrent scores.

When all the scores were in and tallied, our first 'Hall of Fame' inductee, Jon Kruger, would show why he is considered to be one of the most consistent top guns in the country. Winning the U.S. Open (for the 5th time) with a score of 193, he dropped only one target on Green, four on the Red and two on the Blue course. Runner-up was Bill McGuire (60-64-64=188), tied with Anthony Matarese Jr. (64-64-60=188) for second Runner-up. Master first and Junior honors went to Hub Johnson (187). Janet Tausch (167) topped the Ladies, Jack Concannon (176) won Veterans, Casey Lynch (176) took Sub-Juniors and Super-Veterans was won by Dan Cluff (178).

Overall, the Main Event was entertaining and fun, with a level of difficulty that was commensurate with

the stature of a U.S. Open – and well received by the competitors. The level of preparation for the entire event was also appreciated by the competitors – as was the food, hospitality, vendors and sponsors.

The overall operation ran like a well oiled Swiss watch. George and Patti Hopkins, as well as their staff and helpers, did a masterful job demonstrating why Hopkins Game Farm is one of the top shooting grounds in the U.S. ■



FITASC LADIES L TO R: DEBORAH WALL (3RD), ASHLEIGH HAFLEY (LADIES CHAMPION) AND DIANE SORANTINO (2ND).



FITASC JUNIOR CHAMPION WAS THEO RIBBS (CENTER).



MAIN EVENT VETERANS L TO R: JIMMY DICKSON (2ND), JACK CONCANNON (VETERAN CHAMPION) AND BRUCE NEY (3RD).



LEFT: LADIES 1, 2, 3 – DIANE SORANTINO (3RD), JANET TAUSCH (LADIES CHAMPION) AND STEFANIE STEINKRAUS (3RD).

BELOW: L TO R: ANTHONY MATARESE JR. (3RD), JON KRUGER (2007 US OPEN CHAMPION) AND BILL MCGUIRE (2ND).

