

TRUE CHAMPIONS

AS THE SUMMER MONTHS SLIP BY, MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN AND GONE AND THE RECORD BOOKS HAVE BEEN REWRITTEN. NOW OUR THOUGHTS TURN TO THE UPCOMING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Over the last eighteen months, several of our regular correspondents have taken great delight in reporting on the shooting progress of Sub Junior David Radulovich – some anticipating “...one day soon he’ll be a deserving champion.”

That ‘day’ came in late June when he became the 2009 US Open Champion. Held at Elk Creek, over 1100 competitors made the trip to the US Open, with the gathering of Master class shooters looking like a Who’s Who in top guns. Sub Junior Radulovich took top honors in his concurrent in the Pre-lim and then the FITASC. But his outstanding Main Event performance of 64-63-65 = 192 was surely the highlight of his short career to date in Sporting. Few, if any, predicted the win, three targets clear of Brandon Powell. Well done David – and all class and concurrent winners of this prestigious event (fully reported elsewhere in this issue).

All For Charity

Despite the poor economy, support for charities by the sporting fraternity is on the up right across the country – raising millions of dollars each year for worthy causes. Perhaps we should make more publicity about our efforts and successes when it comes to promoting our sport to the general

public. Elsewhere in this issue we report on four such events – the Annual Central Piedmont Community College Challenge Cup (a scholarship fundraising event), the New York Boy Scouts of America Shoot, the 7th Annual ATF Sporting Clays fundraiser and the Irlene Mandrell Celebrity Shoot that this year supported BSA and Wish Upon A Star.

It’s always a pleasure to report on the success of such events – not just because of the worthwhile fundraising, but because such events are also where so many individuals initially experience the fun and challenge of sporting clays. Long may it continue – but what we need now is for our shooting associations, host clubs and organizers to harness the databases of those attending such events to ensure we can encourage them to consider taking up the sport. For so many new faces to enjoy their day with no follow up after the event is surely a lost opportunity.

Personal Note

With great sadness, I (and no doubt many of our readers) was shocked to learn of the untimely death of Mark Kiddie back on July 18th. He was a true ‘gentleman’ and great ambassador for our sport. His love of sporting clays and tireless enthusiasm resulted in endless support for charities – successfully

raising more than \$2 million to benefit cystic fibrosis research programs conducted through Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and the Boomer Esiason Foundation. He will be sadly missed by so many.

Just a week later came news that Heinz-Ulrich Kriehoff passed away on July 23rd at the age of 87 at his home near Ulm, Germany. Under his tenure, the company which carries his name, H. Kriehoff GmbH, continued its long tradition of producing fine sporting arms known all over the world. In 1970 his father retired from the business and he took over full responsibilities for the company. Under his guidance the company expanded internationally and a number of Kriehoff guns became world famous – the Model 32 and its successor, the K-80, set new standards in competition clay target shooting. He retired from active management duties over a decade ago but continued to take an avid interest in the company, and our sport, until the end of his life. The company is currently managed by a seasoned management team which includes his son Dieter and grandson Phil, representing the fourth and fifth generation respectively in the company.

National Challenge

In addition to our regular instructional articles, product reviews, ballistic reports and news,



summer issues tend to carry plenty of shoot reports – and The Great American, The National FITASC, Great Lakes and Texas State are just some of the Big Blasts (in addition to the US Open) that are featured in this issue. As the season has progressed it has become clear that the economic turndown has taken its toll on entries at so many events – including State and Zone shoots (though there have been some notable exceptions to the rule – well done Elm Fork).

However, attendance at the majors – The World Sporting in April and US Open in late June – bucked the trend and there’s every likelihood that the upcoming National Championship will be as well supported as ever. To be held October 27th – November 1st in San Antonio, the menu of 100 FITASC targets, 100 5-Stand, 100 K Kup, 100 small gauge, pump and side-by-side and the 300 target Main Event is sure to attract a good turnout. It’s a chance to test yourself against the best, or best in class or concurrent; the fun of meeting up with friends, old and new; and the opportunity to attend this year’s NSCA Hall of Fame Banquet (October 29th). It promises to be the ultimate end of season party. See you there. ■