

*Straight from a successful shoot the week before, Tom Mack turned in an impressively solid performance to win the Big Kahuna at Elk Creek Hunt Club in Kentucky and claimed its top prize — a trip for two to Hawaii. He led all shooters with 185/200, five birds better than his nearest challenger, Gary L. Sowers, who took AA class top honors. The shoot was held July 30th – August 1st near Owenton, Kentucky.*

# BIG KAHUNA!

**TOM THOMPSON REPORTS  
FROM ELK CREEK HUNT CLUB**

**TOM MACK WAS THE WINNER AT THE  
BIG KAHUNA, AS HE CLAIMED THE  
CHAMPIONSHIP WITH 185/200.**



THE CENTERPIECE OF THE ELK CREEK PROPERTY IS THE SPECTACULAR LODGE FACILITY, OVERLOOKING THE RUGGED TERRAIN OF THE CLUB'S 800 ACRES.



**ELK CREEK IS ONE OF THE PREMIER SHOOTING PROPERTIES IN THE COUNTRY - LOCATED SOME FORTY MILES FROM THE OHIO RIVER IN THE ROLLING HILLS OF KENTUCKY'S TOBACCO GROWING REGION. THE CLUB'S REPUTATION FOR QUALITY SHOOTING FUN IS WELL DESERVED.**

Tom Mack's consistent shooting had carried him to a win the previous week at the Kruger Classic. Since the end of June, the Michigan shooter has logged a string of wins - starting at the Zone III Pre-lim (94). He carried the tradition on to the Michigan State Championship, which he won with 192/200. He also won the Illinois

State Shoot - and is a force to be reckoned with in every event he enters.

Elk Creek is one of the premier shooting properties in the country - located some forty miles from the Ohio River in the rolling hills of Kentucky's tobacco growing region. The club's reputation for quality shooting fun is well

deserved. Their two main courses were definitely not set tight - every target thrown was entirely shootable. The Woods course was the easier of the two, with classic presentations that demanded that the shooter pay attention. Choke changers had little to do on this

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ASHLEIGH HAFLEY WON THE LADIES CONCURRENT AND TOOK THIRD PLACE IN JUNIORS.

course, as a skeet tube or improved cylinder would handle ninety percent of the birds. Tom Mack and George Quigley Jr. finished the Woods course on 95. This course was a target crushers delight!

The Ridge course offered largely open field shots, with room to range across acres of pheasant habitat cover crops. Two towers dominated play along the ridge, with a big multi storied tower

servicing targets to four different stations. Shooters who have problems with tower presentations found the level of difficulty right in the heart of the ridge walk. On Sunday, this course was exposed to the burning sun, with no relief, adding to the discomfort and fatigue factors. Very few were able to post scores that exceeded the 84 degree temperature. Gary Sowers (AA1) turned in the weekend's high of 91. Rains affected the Big Kahuna. Summer showers dampened the Pre-lim on Friday while the late afternoon rotation got drenched during Saturday's Main Event. Many ran for cover - as, in the words of shooter Larry Crisp, "the heavens opened up". The rains hammered Elk Creek, dropping an inch or more in half an hour. The pond area of the woods showed more water on Sunday than most shooters have seen there in years. Amazingly, few trap problems developed as a result of the rains. By Sunday, most traces of rain were gone, washed into the valleys to nurture the Elk Creek grape arbors.

The distinguishing characteristic of the Big Kahuna is the Hawaiian atmosphere and party that draws shooters back to the club for the evening's festivities. Saturday's rains could not dampen the spirit of the Big Kahuna pig roast party - a mixer that enables friends, shooting buddies and first timers the

KAHUNA CUTIES - DRESSED IN THE THEME RELATED COSTUMES OF THE POLYNESIAN ISLANDS.





JIM THOMPSON SHOTS THE ELK CREEK RIDGE COURSE. HE WAS UP FOR THE CHALLENGE, FINISHING WITH 71...GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE E CLASS FIRST PLACE TROPHY.



SURFBOARD TROPHIES ARE LINED UP AWAITING PRESENTATION CEREMONIES AT THE BIG HAWAIIAN LUAU AT ELK CREEK.

opportunity to enjoy the good company, the setting sun, and the Polynesian theme. Gaudy flowered shirts were issued to each participant, lending the correct costuming for the evening. Every Main Event shooter's name was entered into a drawing and Vincent Lori, of Michigan, won the grand prize – a trip for two to Hawaii.

Tom Mack won the Pre-lim with 94. Jim Bowers was Master 1 with 92, Dwayne Marcum took the AA trophy with 89 and an 86 gave A class to Larry Crisp. Ralph Bruewer won B class with 84, Pete Bryant's 81 gave him C class honors, while a 77 placed Craig

Van Balen at the top of D class. Jim Thompson took home the E class trophy with 71.

The shoot attracted 167 shooters – 140 for the Main Event. 5-stand, Make-A-Break, and a Long-Shot game combined with a permanent fifty-bird sub-gauge course provided plenty of shooting entertainment between innings. A staff of friendly and polite scorekeepers, who were obviously well trained, assured a fair count on all courses.

**THEIR STAFF HAD THE COURSES WELL GROOMED AND IN GOOD WORKING ORDER. THE ENTIRE STAFF DESERVES TO BE PROUD OF THEIR ROLE IN THE HIGH QUALITY EVENT THEY PRESENTED.**

Gary Kathman, manager at Elk Creek and club owner Curtis Segretto are great hosts. Course setter Cris Koziol and his staff had the courses well groomed and in good working order. The entire staff deserves to be proud of their role in the high quality event they presented. The club offers a full schedule of events throughout the year, including pheasant and quail hunting in the fall. Eight hundred acres dedicated to shooting sports makes Elk Creek a favored destination of shotgunners from 300 miles in every direction. (For details on the club's offerings, phone: 502 484 4569.) ■

## THE BIG KAHUNA ELK CREEK

JULY 30th – AUGUST 1st

HOA	TOM MACK	185
MASTER 1	TIM JEWELL	174
MASTER 2	TODD SIMMONS	173
CLASS AA 1	GARY L. SOWERS	180
CLASS AA 2	DELBERT KENDALL	177
CLASS A 1	CHUCK GRIENER	161
CLASS A 2	LARRY CRISP	158
CLASS B 1	JEFF ANTHONY	175
CLASS B 2	VERNON REARDON	166
CLASS C 1	BRANDON GAY	160
CLASS C 2	DENNIS SCHNEIDER	153
CLASS D 1	KYLE ATHERTON	165
CLASS D 2	DAVE LITHERLAND	154
CLASS E 1	JAMES CARTER	150
CLASS E 2	JARED JEWELL	146
VETERAN	FLOYD HARTLAGE	173
SUPER VETS	FRANK FULTON	171
LADIES	ASHLEIGH HAFLEY	144
JUNIOR	GREG JACKSON	169
SUB-JUNIOR	JARED JEWELL	146