



# JUNIOR NATIONALS

A REPORT BY **CONNIE McELROY**

Juniors and Sub-Juniors came from across the country to participate in their own first ever event. Young shooters and their family's converged upon the National Shooting Complex to vie in a competition that would name the Sporting Clays National Champion for Junior, Sub-Junior, Lady Junior and Lady Sub-Junior as well as a new Collegiate category.

The shoot was a mandatory qualifier for Junior and Sub-Junior All Americans – just as at the September Nationals in previous years. There were a few Juniors that were noticeably not in attendance – some youngsters were eligible for the 'Open' All American Teams and chose not to attend.

One hundred and twenty four shooters ageing from ten to 21 representing 32 States participated. Sixteen college students, 15 young

women, 69 Sub-Juniors and 39 Juniors came together alongside over 400 4-H'ers from Texas who were there to compete in the Texas 4-H State Championship. At least 30 young shooters crossed over and competed in both events.

There were vendors and various activities each day – even clay shooting events for the parents to participate in. Many

families made this their vacation. In its first year of inception, creators of the Junior Nationals banked on higher involvement from the younger set during summer vacation months – they were absolutely right! Participation was up 51 percent over the past four years average at the September Nationals for this age group.

**THE FIRST ANNUAL  
NSCA JUNIOR NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP WAS  
HELD JULY 21-24TH IN  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.**



**KASEY STAFFORD SHOOTING.**

## STRONG SUPPORT

Sponsors of the Junior Nationals ensured its success. Industry sponsors such as Beretta, Bad Boy Buggies, Briley Mfg., ProMatic, Fiocchi, LaPorte, Winchester, Browning, Hi Viz Sights, Federal, White Flyer, ESPN, Seminole, Armusa, No Fly Zone, Americase, R & R Traps and Able Ammo helped with dinners, events, trophies, goodie bag items and scholarships for participants. Each child participating received items such as t-shirts, shooting glasses, caps, wristbands and was placed in door prize drawings.

Out of industry leaders were Lauren and A. Mark Faggard, Mike and Pam Bryan, Mark Richman, John Stafford, Russ Arnold and many more. In fact, the Faggard's solicited and

*TEXAN JACOB CALLAHAN SHOTS AS GREG JACKSON FROM TENNESSEE WATCHES.*

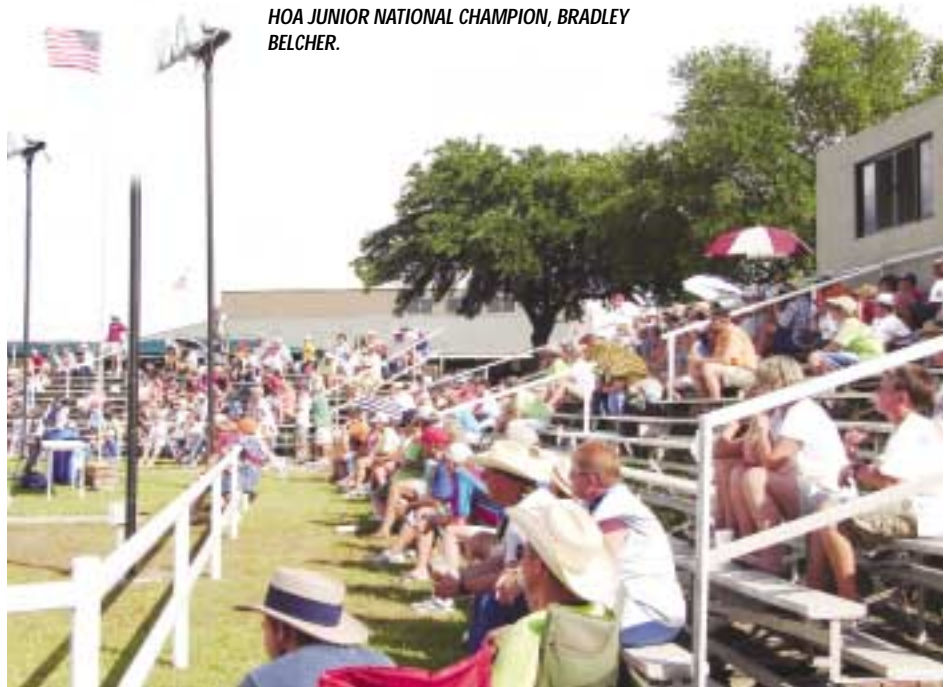


*HOA JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPION, BRADLEY BELCHER.*

assembled scholarship donations from generous donors to fund scholarships in honor of three outstanding shooters that have been influential in promoting shotgun sports among youth. The Jon Kruger Scholarships for Sub-Juniors, the Dan Carlisle Scholarships for Juniors and the Scott Robertson Scholarships for

Collegiate Champions were awarded to first places and other scholarship money went down seven places in each concurrent group in the Main Event, and four places in the Compak, Pre-lim and FITASC events. There were also donations specifically for the Ladies and the Teams. Donations collected totaled over \$28,000 this year, with enough funding to be carried over to the 2006 Junior Nationals which will be held at Hopkins Game Farm in Maryland next summer.

Organizers worked hard to promote, support and administer the event. A few dedicated people gave attention to every detail to



make it worthy of a National Championship. Co-Chairs, Tony Monzingo and Lonnie Mears – along with Mark Faggard, John Matthews, Russ Arnold, Lynda Mears, Tommy Allmand, Alisha Henderson, George Hopkins and Mateo Racanatini – laid out a great program and worked with the NSCA staff to ensure success. A variety of events, over \$7,000 in beautiful trophies, great courses worthy of a National Championship and so much more added to the success.



*LADY CHAMPION – KASEY STAFFORD – SUB-JUNIOR, WITH JENNIFER BANDY.*

The Friday evening Top Gun Shoot Out was particularly popular – it featured some of the top Junior shooters from across the country. It was amazing to see the 50 and 60 yard targets repeatedly breaking. Cole Storey came out on top winning a Beretta 391. David Alexander took second and John Ray was third high. Each also



*CO-CHAIRMEN, LONNIE MEARS AND TONY MONZINGO CAN BE THANKED FOR THEIR HARD WORK RESULTING IN THE SUCCESSFUL FIRST JUNIOR NATIONALS.*

received an engraved knife in its own walnut case. A great Junior Nationals party at the Beretta Pavilion made this event complete. A+ in every way!

## FAMILY AFFAIR

The event was truly a family affair. They watched and cheered as the young shooters made their way

around the course. Competitors were seen encouraging and helping one another. The Pre-lim was well attended on Friday and the FITASC event sold out –

**MARK, LAUREN AND AMANDA FAGGARD SUPPORTING SHOOTERS AT THE SHOOT-OFFS.**



proving that young people are keeping up with various shot gunning disciplines and are not afraid to try something new. Many shot Compak for the first time as well.

Competition in the Main Event was fervent, yet fun. The sporting clays course was fairly undemanding on Saturday, but Sunday's course proved to be challenging enough to separate the shooters into class. Each event's targets were set so that the top shooters could compete effectively and the lower class shooters could still enjoy breaking targets without breaking their hearts! Everyone was a winner at this competition.

## **MAIN SPORTING CLAY CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS**

HOA BRAD BELCHER (MICHIGAN)  
 RU GREG JACKSON (TENNESSEE)  
 3RD TRAVIS MEARS (TEXAS)

COLLEGIATE:  
 CH BRAD BELCHER  
 RU MATT HOUTTEMAN  
 3RD DERRICK MEIN

JUNIOR:  
 CH GREG JACKSON  
 RU TRAVIS MEARS  
 3RD GEOFFREY LAFARGUE

SUB JUNIOR:  
 CH JOHN RAY  
 RU JOEY BOLTON  
 3RD JUSTIN FOX

LADY CH: KASEY STAFFORD (OKLAHOMA)  
 JR LADY CH: MISTY WILLIAMS (TEXAS)

M 1ST: GEOFFREY LAFARGUE

- AA 1ST: TODD PULIS

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- A 1ST: COLTON FLINT

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- B 1ST: KYLE WANDELEAR

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- C 1ST JUSTIN BROZOVSKY

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- D 1ST: DALLAS PENN

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- E 1ST: MARTHA LACK

Team competition gave the opportunity for individuals to work together. Teams consisted of three members and a coach who

**DERRICK MEIN, FROM KANSAS FARM ATTENDED JUNIOR NATIONALS WITH HIS MOM WHILE HIS DAD RICK MEIN COMPETED IN RENO AT A HELICE COMPETITION. ▼**



◀ PICTURE OF THE BRYANT FAMILY.

regularly practice together and are sponsored by a club, business or individual NSCA member.

**TEAM AWARDS:**

- Sub Junior Ch Team:** Texas – Dustin Buttler, Eric Wade Nelson, Leon Tan.
- Sub Junior RU Team:** Johnson County – Chase Miller, Joseph Rogers, J Henderson
- Sub Junior 3rd Team:** California – Cody Nielson, Jayson Anderson, Justin Fox.
- Junior Ch Team:** Alaska Shooting Stars – Wyatt Hepper, Matt Hughes, Todd Pulis.
- Junior RU Team:** Johnson County – Tanner Gilreath, Jon Paul

- Wheat, Mark Billings.
- Collegiate Team CH:** Michigan – Matt Murer, Matt Houtteman, Brad Belcher.
- Collegiate Team RU:** Lindenwood Univ. #1 – Jon Shockley, Cole Geisler, Sean McLelland.
- Collegiate Team 3rd:** Lindenwood Univ #2 – Joseph Steenbergen, Misty Williams, Derrick Mein.

**FITASC EVENT AWARDS**

- CH HUB JOHNSON

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- RU JOEY BOLTON

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- 3RD LOGAN GASKINS

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- LADY SJR CH KASEY STAFFORD

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- LADY JR CH JENNIFER BANDY

**COMPAK AWARDS:**

- CH TRAVIS MEARS

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- RU DERRICK MEIN

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- 3RD JACOB CALLAHAN

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- LADY SJR CH SARAH HUGHES

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- LADY JR CH JENNIFER BRANDY

**PRELIM AWARDS:**

- CH MATT TREECE

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- RU BRAD BELCHER

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- 3RD GREG JACKSON

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- LADY SJR CH KASEY STAFFORD

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- LADY JR CH MISTY WILLIAMS



▲ MAIN EVENT SUB-JUNIOR CHAMPION JOHN RAY FROM GEORGIA.

◀ GEOFFREY LAFARGUE FROM LOUISIANA ATTENDING WITH FATHER BUTCH. BUTCH SAID AFTER JUST A MONTH OF COMPETING IN NSCA SHOTS, "THIS IS EXPENSIVE, ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO GIVE IT UP." BUTCH GAVE IT UP AND 16 YEAR OLD GEOFFREY MOVED UP TO MASTER CLASS WITHIN MONTHS.