

The 2007 Junior World



By: J. Makiver
Courtesy of the National Skeet
Shooting Association (NSSA)

California sub-junior shooters Emily Shubert and Richard Riddle nodded in agreement on Sunday afternoon when Coach Larry Sifers summed up the 2007 Junior World Championships saying, "Great kids, great shooting, great management, and great targets—a wonderful weekend for the kids."

On August 2–5, 2007, the Minuteman Sportsman's Club in Burlington, Massachusetts hosted 120 young shooters, coaches, and parents from around the country and Canada to compete in the 2007 Junior World Skeet Championships. Aaron Benton and Ian Smingler were part of a New York squad that arrived early on Wednesday. "We need to get as much practice as possible," they said. "The competition will be extremely tough this weekend." Parent Lou Riddle from Bonsall, California agreed. "The integrity these young people have as shooters is incredible. While they love to have fun and behave as kids, they're anxious to compete to the best of their abilities and be successful."

The Junior World is structured in a concurrent competition format without any regard to traditional classes. The three concurrents Sub Junior, Junior and Collegiate all have groups - sub-junior (juniors who have not reached their 14th birthday,) junior (junior who has not reached their 18th birthday,) and collegiate (a full-time undergraduate in an accredited university for up to five years.) With in each concurrent there are Classes I, II, and III based on the individual's target average. The main events include doubles, 12, 20, 28, .410 and HOA. The HOA Championship consists of combining competition events using all four gauges for shotguns – 12, 20, 28, and 410 bore results are added together where the top score out of 400 is the HOA Champion.

Thursday's preliminary C of C event allowed shooters to get warmed up and the kids didn't waste any time posting some great scores. Collegiate Chris Cook (Arizona) broke the only 100 to win collegiate champ while Adam Linetty (Pennsylvania) won runner-up and Eric Desatoff (California) took third. The C

Skeet Championship



of C event is the Champion of Champion event and is considered a preliminary event – it does not get added into the HOA score of 400.

Adam Linetty is a recent Bucknell graduate with a B.S. in Biology. He begins work this fall for a Philadelphia biotech company and hopes to attend dental school in a couple of years.

Virginia juniors Taylor Ricketts, Ryan Tribble, Wayne Kidd, and Arizona's Scott Usry posted 100s. After a great shoot-off, Kidd emerged as junior champ with Usry runner-up and Ricketts third. Sub-juniors Cameron Coggins (AL) and Cory Pinney (CO) led their concurrent with 99s and won sub-junior champ and runner-up respectively. Lady champions were Talia Borg and Abby Leeder.

Doubles

By the conclusion of the doubles event, the scoreboard, meticulously maintained by Barbara Bozard and George Morse, was covered with great scores throughout the concurrent

groups. Three perfect 100s were posted by juniors Brian Foley, Carter Wehrheim, Taylor Ricketts, and two by squadmates Eric Desatoff and Chris Cook. It wasn't until the second box that Foley won junior champ and Ricketts junior runner-up, while Cook swiped an early victory from Desatoff to win collegiate champ.

Another exciting shoot-off featured Devin Cody, Jaker Jacobson, David Kamp, Kyle Taylor, Adam Benkendorf, and Courtney Coggins for a junior third win. Devin and Jaker only had to clear the last pair at four to run the box when the second bird narrowly slipped by Devin. Jaker need the pair for the victory and he nailed them without hesitation! Congratulations! In a similar shoot-off Ian Smingler and Mike Snider appeared to have the box wrapped up in a shoot-off for collegiate third when Mike lost the last bird on four and Ian won it!

12-Gauge Event

On Thursday evening, Eric Desatoff had a feeling that Talia Borg was going to run her first 12-gauge straight on Friday.

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“Talia’s 12-gauge scorecard is littered with 99s,” said Eric. “Including one from last year’s Junior World. She’s really been working at focusing on the target. In fact, she’ll even focus on anything that resembles a target. For example, red flashing train-track crossing lights,” grinned Eric. And sure enough, Talia came through and posted her first perfect 12-gauge score and won lady junior champ and junior I-4 (Junior I-4 is a Junior shooter who has not reached their 18th birthday and is shooting in Group I based on average and in fourth place based on score.)

Thirteen other perfect 100s joined Talia’s which set the stage for some exciting shoot-offs. Collegiates Mike Blades (Nova Scotia), Mike Snider (Georgia), and Chris Cook met on the shoot-off field to establish collegiate places. Chris dropped on the return trip to Station 4 and the two Mikes kept hammering away until that dreaded

last pair on station 4 (there are eight stations in skeet shooting.) Blades dropped the second bird opening the door for Snider. Snider stepped onto the station, called for his pair and crushed them to claim collegiate champ.

Another noteworthy collegiate shoot-off involved Bo Bozard (Florida) and Aaron Benton (New York) when their 99s tied for collegiate I first and second. While the two have been friends for a couple of years, Aaron really wanted to make sure Bo enjoyed his Junior World New England experience this summer. To that end, as Aaron followed Bo through the first box, he was dismayed when Bo lost a couple of birds. “It saddened me when Bo dropped those birds.” Aaron recalled later. So in the spirit of Yankee hospitality, he just stepped up to the station and lost one too. What a nice guy! Apparently, however, Bo didn’t read the circulated memo on Yankee



hospitality. When the second box began, Bo followed Aaron and when Aaron missed on Station 4 it seemed pretty clear (at least to Aaron) that Bo would return the favor. Well, it didn't exactly turn out that way because Bo just raised his gun and ink-balled the pair! The friends shook hands and enjoyed a good laugh.

The junior shoot-off field was much busier as eight shooters squared off—Patrick Steinert (Pennsylvania), Ron Dodson (Virginia), Wayne Kidd (Virginia), Ryan Tribble (Virginia), Alik Miller (New York), Taylor Ricketts (Virginia), Talia Borg (California) and Bradley Bilicki (South Carolina). On the fourth trip to Station 4, Miller won junior champ, with Dodson hanging on to win runner-up and Ricketts third. Tribble and Dodson also won the two man junior event with a perfect 200x200!

Sub-juniors Cameron Coggins (Alabama), Robert Horton (Georgia) and Cory Pinney (Colorado) met to settle their 99s. After some fine shooting, Robert placed sub-junior third while Cameron and Cory appeared to be heading to a second box when that dreaded last pair on 4 cost Cameron a bird. Now it was up to Cory to break the pair and take home sub-junior champ. He stepped onto the station, paused for a second, dropped in two shells, called for the birds and smoked them!

Kate Haas (Texas) won lady collegiate champ, Borg lady junior and Abby Leeder (Texas) lady sub-junior.

20-Gauge Event

Two juniors from Virginia, Taylor Ricketts (Junior Champion) and Wayne Kidd (Junior Runnerup), ran the only 100s in their concurrent 20-gauge event, while fourteen 99s tied for third, including one from Lucas Takahashi from Armonk, NY. Prior to the Junior World, Lucas had not shot a registered target since the 2005 Mini-World. Instead, he focused on lacrosse and academics which paid off as he'll be a freshman at Penn State this fall.

The Junior concurrent generally has the most participants and this year more than 60 juniors were competing to win. The 20-gauge was a fun shoot-off and close to 100 spectators gathered to watch these fourteen kids. One of these spectators was Cameron Coggins who easily won sub-junior champ with his lone 99.

Eventually emerging from all the smoke and dust was our smiling junior third winner Ryan Tribble. Steinart and Dodson took JRI-1 and JRI-2 respectively. Lucas hung tough and won JRI-6. Great shooting by everyone. Jenna McLean (Texas), Borg and Leeder were the lady concurrent champions. Once Ryan won this monster shoot-off, Coggins walked over to the sub-junior shoot-off field to watch his friends compete. Matt Bartosch (Pennsylvania) won sub-junior runner-up while Cory Pinney (Colorado) took third. Richard Riddle (California) and Nick Boerboon (Minnesota) won SJI-2 and SJI-3, while Bakersfield California's Emily Shuford and Boston native Matthew Grabski won SJ3-2 and SJ3-3.

Fourteen-year-old Emily Shubert is excited to enter the 9th grade at Bakersfield High School this fall. She can't wait to see her friends, play the tuba, and represent her school on the swim team. After all, she needs the rest after diving into skeet shooting this spring and shooting more than 2,000 tournament targets this summer.

Coach Larry Sifers is pleased with Emily's progress. "Emily's a super young lady and has had an incredible summer shooting skeet," remarked Larry. "She's having a memorable Junior World, shooting her first registered 25-straight in the 28-gauge, winning shoot-offs and having fun





with her mom and sister.” (Emily shot a brilliant 97 in the 28-gauge event and won sub-junior third and sub-junior lady champ!).

“I enjoy traveling and meeting new friends,” said Emily. “I practice at the Poor Boy skeet range and won D1 in the 20-gauge at the California State Shoot. I also enjoy hunting doves and ducks with my dad.” Not long ago Emily took her first elk from 190 yards while on a hunt in New Mexico.

Emily has a lot in common with Tiffany Davis, a 16-year-old from Sloatsburg, NY, entering 11th grade. Tiffany shot her first registered targets in July, and according to her father Wayne, she’s already posting scores in the 90s! She won D1 in the 28-gauge at the Lobster. Like Emily, Tiffany enjoys hunting birds and can’t wait for the fall pheasant season. She shoots at the Monroe-Chester Sportsman’s Club and enjoys ultimate fighting in high school.

Sisters Haley and Shanan Foster from Ada, OK, were sporting their new Boston Red Sox caps during the Sunday shoot-offs. “We took our first ever subway ride yesterday,” Shanan exclaimed. “We went to Fenway and watched the Red Sox win! It was awesome.” They posted some awesome scores too, with Shanan and Haley winning junior lady champ and runner-up with a 99 and 97.

As the .410 event approached, all eyes were on the HOA championships and everyone knew a strong .410 score was critical for success. Collegiates were led by Snider 299, Bozard and Cook 298, and Desatoff 297.

Bo, a sophomore majoring in Business at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida., was pleased with his shooting this weekend, but this would be only his fourth .410 event of 2007 with a .9500 average. “In the spring of 2006, an industrial accident left me without the use of a hand and as a result I missed the whole shooting season,” said Bo. But medical science is a wonder and the therapy successful because Bo crushed a 100 that afternoon and won both the .410 and HOA collegiate championship. Chris Cook’s 396 won collegiate runner-up and .410 collegiate third.

Good friends Taylor Ricketts and Ryan Tribble won HOA junior champ and runner-up with 397 and 396, although Ryan’s victory didn’t come easy as he had to shoot off against the .410 sub-junior champ Tucker Biedenbarn from Boerne, TX. This was the fourth Junior World for Taylor and Ryan and they’re looking forward to 2008.

Cameron Coggins broke 98 in the .410 and won HOA and .410 sub-junior champ while Bailey Glenewinkel (TX), Emily Shuford and Abby Leeder won .410 sub-junior lady champ, runner-up and third. HOA lady champions include Jenna McLean (collegiate), Talia Borg (junior) and Abby Leeder (sub-junior).

The Minuteman Sportsman’s Club was proud to host the 2007 Junior World Championships, and the volunteer efforts of the following people made it a success: Kerry Muzyka, Barbara Bozard, Jean Voutas, Maureen Siemen, Laura Grabski, Cookie Welsch, Robbie and Mark Muzyka, Dean Lynch, Nick Morrione, Charles Grabski, Angelo Troisi, Al Hersch, Jim Bridges, George Morse, Bob Webb, Howie Altman, Carl Hensch, Russ Lebel, and Bill Batty.

Start planning today for the 2008 Junior World Shoot to be held at the Stockton Trap & Skeet Club in Stockton, CA. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Riddle are part of a large group of parents, coaches and friends that are diligently preparing to make the 2008 Junior World the best ever! Please go to www.2008jrworld.com for more information.

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