Schmidt Wins Blaser Classic

By Linda Mayes

A new year brings a new skeet season and with it the opportunity to achieve great things. I can’t think of a better way to start things off than with the Blaser Classic at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Texas. Shooters from all over made the special trip to attend the first top ten shoot of the season that ran March 21–23. With 272 shooters registered, the weekend started off with a bang!

Doubles

On Friday, shooters competed in the doubles event sponsored by Federal Ammunition. Only one perfect score was posted at the end of the day and it was John “Briley” Barnes’ first 100 in the event. Friends and squadmates waited patiently until shoot-offs were completed to shoot his hat in the stadium field.

Four shooters shot off 99s—Brett McLaughlin, Jonathon McDonald, Ben Gallup and Jason Ward. McLaughlin placed runner-up and Gallup was third. Jo Ellen Collin was lady champion with 96. Thanks to Federal for sponsoring this event.

12 & 20 Gauges

Saturday morning was perfect for 31 shooters with scores of 100 in the 12 gauge. After several rounds of shoot-offs, Clay Baldwin of Arkansas won the title. Mike Schmidt from Georgia was runner-up and John “The Fireman” Castillo placed third. Patricia Hupp and Diana Riddle shot off perfect scores for the ladies’ title with Hupp claiming the prize. Many thanks to LaPorte for sponsoring the event.

Twenty-four competitors made the most of their time on Saturday afternoon by posting perfect scores. While the shoot-offs continued, shooters and guests enjoyed a party on the patio hosted by shoot sponsor Blaser.

Former NSSA/NSCA Executive Director Don Snyder won the 20 gauge event, while Greg Massari placed runner-up and Jason Ward finished third. Local shooter Babette Burley won the ladies’ title after shooting off her perfect score.

White Flyer graciously sponsored the 20 gauge event.

28 & .410 Events

While shooters enjoyed warm Texas weather on Friday and Saturday, Mother Nature had other plans for Sunday. Cool temperatures and strong winds could not deter shooters from competing.

Only eight shooters posted scores of 100 in the 28 gauge event. Skeete Smitha had his hat shot in the stadium field as he posted his first perfect score in the 28 gauge! Cameron Schuster bested everyone in shoot-offs for the title, while Baldwin placed runner-up and Carter Wehrheim was third. Debbi Perry won the ladies’ title after shooting off scores of 99. Thanks to Cliff Moller and Briley for sponsoring the event.

One might think that the unpleasant weather would prevent any perfect scores in the .410 event, but that was not the case. Mike Schmidt and Kent Thomas both broke amazing 100s. Mike claimed the championship and Kent was runner-up. Wehrheim was third after shooting off 99s with four other shooters. Taylor Behrens won the ladies’ title outright with an awesome 98. Thanks to Remington for sponsoring the .410 event.

HOA & HAA

Mike Schmidt posted an unbelievable perfect 400x400 and nailed the HOA championship at the end of the .410 event. Mike said he has been practicing and shooting his gun well and was very pleased with his accomplishment. Carter Wehrheim was runner-up with the only 398 and Philip Poston placed third with 396. Diana Riddle won the ladies’ HOA with a solid 392. Thanks to E-Z-GO for sponsoring the HOA.

The HAA results were Schmidt champ at 498, Wehrheim runner-up at 496 and John Castillo third with his 494.

Thank you to all of the event sponsors and to Blaser USA for hosting such a wonderful shoot.

Please make sure to thank all of our sponsors for everything they do to help our shooting sports. A big thanks to Cliff Moller and Briley for bringing “The Wand” back to the National Shooting Complex. As always, many thanks to Shoot Chairman Royce Graff; Pete Masch and Barney Brown for flawless execution and awesome targets; plus all the administrative support staff and volunteers who helped with registration. The 2014 skeet season is off to an amazing start.