

September 2021

Neil Diamond had a record album (something you youngsters have probably never even heard of) a long time ago called "Hot August Night". That is a loop that we have been in for this entire month. As most of my friends will tell you, the heat is something that really doesn't bother me too much but this one has been a scorcher. Not only has the weather been hot, but many of the shooters in Michigan have been keeping pace with the temperature.

Starting with the Hannaford at DSC, to the Zone shoot right through the State Championships, Andrew Bielman has been racking up targets and placing in just about every event he shoots in. Someone just as hot, and one of the MSA's newest Board members, Ross Szarenski posted back-to-back 391's at the Zone and State Championships while also placing in multiple events along the way. It seems Ross has exorcised "evil Ross" who was poking his head out earlier this season.

As you all know, our demographic is, shall I say, composed of mostly more "seasoned" participants, but there are some "young guns" beginning to make a mark in our sport. One such shooter out of DSC's junior program is Jeremy Salisbury. Jeremy had the 10th best score, a 389, out of all the participants at the Zone Championships (that list had some pretty notable names on it) with a 99 in the .410 event along the way. Great shooting Jeremy!

Now I want to give "our" State Championships the recognition that it deserves. Friday started out with the Big Gun Handicap event. Each year the competition gets tougher and tougher, and this year nearly 60% of



the participants were in the shoot-off of our sponsor-funded event. Twenty-two shooters needed to be split up on two fields just to make sure that we didn't need to turn on the lights to finish up! After 500+ targets had been broken the shooters leaving with a fatter wallet were Edward Bowker, Bill Nielsen, "Young Gun" Jeremy Salisbury, John McGinnis, Brian Long and Ryan Cordes. I am sure that I speak for all MSA members when I say THANK YOU to all involved in making this event a part of our State Championships.

The first event of the 2021 State Championships was taken by another "Young Gun", Breanna Gorman. Not only is Breanna one of best of our young shooters, but she is also the first woman to win the State Doubles title. Congratulations to you, Breanna, from myself, the Board of Directors and, I am sure, every shooter here in Michigan. The next event to be decided was the 20 Gauge and the Champion, after a shoot-off of 100's, was our "friendly skies" pilot Bill Nielsen capturing his second State title. The .410 was next up and the top honor, and his second

President's Message

State Championship, went to MSA Past President Dave Schiebel with a lone 99. This concluded Saturday's shooting and brought us to the festivities of the evening where the Hall of Fame saw two new inductees: Mike Kremski for his stellar record in shooting and yours truly for doing what I consider to be easy, giving back to our sport. I know that I speak for Mike in saying we are extremely grateful for being placed on a wall with so many "greats" before us.

Now I'll stop patting myself on the back and get back to what is important, the final day of the State Championships. Another first-time winner was "the unknown out of the pack" (you hopefully picked-up my Caddyshack reference), Mike Delgado who took the top honor in the 28 Gauge, again in a shoot-off of multiple 100's. The last event, the 12 Gauge, went to Jim Sykes. This is Jim's fourth State title giving him one in each of the "gauges". Way to go Jim and again THANK YOU to Alta for their sponsorship! Finally, our HOA Champion. This honor, again in a year of firsts, went to Sean Rosencrantz. However, it did not come easy as he had to slug it out with Dave Schiebel after both finished with 395's. Rounding out the top three this year was Andrew (don't call me Andy) Bielman.

There you have it my skeet family, the roundup of the best month in our State. However, before I go, remember there are still titles to be won and targets to be shot. So, I hope to still see you on the fields, and I am always available via email at ricktraw@gmail.com. Get out there and make some more dust!

- Rick Trawinski