

## *Ya'll Come Back Open*

After a hiatus that lasted over a year, South River Gun Club, in Covington, Georgia, held a skeet shoot to welcome everyone back to a newly remodeled clubhouse, thus our name, "Ya'll Come Back Open". Saturday's forecasted weather was for steady rain ALL day. The bad news was it DID rain all day ... the good news was it was certainly fair for everyone who decided to shoot, in spite of the weather. Fortunately it was just wet ... not too cold ... and at some point, one cannot get any more wet! Unfortunately, that's where most folks were ... the shooters and referees feet were starting to web.

We began the weekend with 30 12 Gauge shooters, resulting in 3 100 straights. Seasoned shooters Bryant Everett (AL) & Mike Snider turned in perfect scores and John Whitaker shot his first ever 100 straight. Even with as low key and even-tempered as John is, I believe he was a bit excited!! All 3 straight-ers lasted through 3 stations before Whitaker failed to break his pair, thus securing A Honors. Everett and Snider continued on for several more stations before Everett missed a target on Station 4 and Mike took the Championship honors for which he sought.

Ever entertaining, James Braswell, came into registration after the 12 Gauge to ask if he could enter the HOA options – I recommended he not be so hasty, to wait and ask after shooting the .410 Bore as the result would be the same (but he was ever hopeful)!!

Tasty BBQ lunch was available to everyone; to warm their wet insides before heading back out to the field for the 20 Gauge.

30 20 Gauge participants only produced one lone straight, James Braswell (Albany, GA) to cleanly crown him Champion.

New shooter, Brian Taylor and I have been 'phone dating' for a while now as he's contacted me about all the happenings regarding skeet in Georgia. It was a pleasure to finally get the opportunity to meet over the weekend. He won class honors in both his gauges. He loves this new game he's discovered.

In an effort to increase participation, without adding to the length of the weekend, Doubles was offered as the third event of the day. Participation was greater than anticipated as most felt like the 100 targets would be good practice for the shoot-offs. 19 hit the field once again, thrilled the weather was at least dry. While no one had a perfect round, a single 99 was posted (again) by Mike Snider, who secured Champion one more time.

Light appetizers were provided while shooters gathered to watch shoot-offs. Thanks to Millard Ross for providing these!

Sunday's weather forecast was for sunny skies and warmer than normal spring like temperatures ... reality was a gray, cooler day but dry.

30 entrants returned for the 28 Gauge. 2 Seniors, Quincy Dykes and James Braswell, posted perfect scores so they headed to the shoot-off field, but before the crowd could gather it was over. Dykes hit his first pair ... James datched his first pair, resulting in shoot-off done.

Lunch was deli sandwiches with all the garnishments and then a whole range of desserts. Someone was really planning ... load the shooters up with carbs so they're sluggish, then spike their energy level with sugar ... they shouldn't have been worth anything!!

32 competed for bragging rights in the .410 Bore. Once again, no perfect scores were turned in for the .410 Bore event, but 99 was good enough for another unchallenged Champion title, once again, to Mike Snider.

**James Braswell was sulking around the clubhouse, having posted a 395 without entering HOA Options. He didn't realize he was really in contention for HOA, just not the options (takes ALL the pressure off that way doesn't it??!!). Everyone was watching the final squad of shooters to see if 395 would be high ... or low and while the last squad pushed their hardest, only one shooter shot well enough to tie Braswell; Bryant Everett brought in his own 395. Thus Braswell and Everett found themselves headed to the shoot-off field once more. Both gentlemen cleared the first station and Braswell cleaned Station 4, putting the pressure on Everett, who let the second target on Station four's pair sail away, thus declaring Braswell HOA Champion.**

**The gun club has recently undergone some significant changes. Folks initially questioned if they were at the right place as they arrived. Most have been completed; however, landscaping is still ongoing, particularly with a day's worth of rain. All four-gun participants rotated through 'mudslide' hill, with minimal complaining. With four fields, one only had to shoot one gauge while modeling mud boots, as the red clay abounds at SRGC.**

**Thank you to all the SRGC members who gave so unselfishly of their time, effort, energies, and dollars .. before and during the tournament to ensure all our guests had a good time. Chuck Daniel, Machine Mechanic, had the machines running smoothly and throwing great targets for everyone. Denny Edwards, Norma Rickmond and newly certified referee, Coty Shirah, worked tirelessly scoring and loading throughout the weekend for me ... thank you for once again allowing me to use and abuse YOU. Club members pitched in when necessary to cover the extra fields as well. And finally, thank you to everyone who came out to support South River Gun Club's skeet tournament; to each of you I extend a heartfelt thank you!! Hopefully you shot some good scores and even had some wins throughout the weekend. It was great to see familiar faces and welcome new folks. We hope you felt welcome and had a good time. It was an honor to have each of you share your weekend with us.**