

8th ANNUAL HARRY MICHELSON MEMORIAL

The 8th Annual Harry Michelson Memorial Shoot was held May 22-24 at St. Joe Valley Conservation Club just north of Ft. Wayne, IN. The name of the shoot was changed in 2015 from the Pickle Open (so named because it was held the same weekend as St. Joe's celebrated Pickle Festival, the home to Sechler's Pickles) to the Harry Michelson Open in honor of long-time referee and club member Harry Michelson. Following his passing in 2018 it was renamed the Harry Michelson Memorial Shoot. Harry's daughter, Sandy, has committed to honor his request to continue to provide added money to the shoot each year, along with lunch for all the attendees. Thank you, Sandy!

Though conditions were rather breezy for Friday afternoon's Doubles event, Indiana's Nic Shively managed to post the lone 100 to claim the Championship, followed by a solo 99 by Canadian Dan Morris for Runner-up. Shoot-offs were required for AA, A and B classes, with St. Joe's workhorse, Bruce Christian taking AA1; Kentuckians Joe Charles was A1 and Mike Wilkerson, B1. Referee, and sometimes shooter, Lynn Kaiser was C1; with young Michael Glasby taking D1.

Saturday was a little cooler than average, with a light mist on and off throughout the day, but dead calm conditions for the 12 and 20 Gauge events. Six perfect scores were posted with Dan Morris besting teammate Craig Parsons (RU) for the Championship, along with Nic Shively (AA1) and Bryson Fox (A1). Tom Davis won his shoot-off for B1, while Joe Krispin (C1), Terry Leake (D1) and young Glasby (E1) were alone at the top of their classes.

In the afternoon 20 Gauge event nine shooters posted 100s. In the shoot-off Craig Parsons was victorious over Andrew Winders (RU), with 100's by Chris Phelps (AA1) and Doug Trautman (B1) winning their classes. Susan Huszai (A1), Ron Simmons (C1) and Terry Leake (D1) were outright winners of their classes. After two events, there were three competitors 200X200 and another seven down only one or two birds.

Sunday was still on the cool side, but we saw the long sleeve shirts start come off in the afternoon even as the storm clouds began to build. Everyone managed to stay dry for the 28 Gauge event in the morning, but the rain finally materialized with a vengeance during the last flight of the .410 event, stopping all shooting until the deluge passed. When all was said and done, there were seven 100 straights in the 28 Gauge event. Mike Glasby, Jr. (not to be confused with young Michael, his son) racked up a win in the Championship shoot-off over Cameron Baker (RU) and Chris Phelps (AA1); while Mike Vanzile (A1) and Paul Hawkins (B1) won their shoot-offs for top class honors, and Doug Trautman (C) and Ron Simmons (D) finished at the top of their classes.

Going in to the .410 event, there were three shooters down only one target, with six others hot on their heels down just two or three. As we all know, *anything* can happen in the .410! The top score posted in the "baby bore" was 99 by two shooters, with Chris Phelps winning the shoot-off over Owen Knight (RU). Sam Armstrong (AA1), Nic Shively (A1), Mark Presnell (B1) and Ron Simmons (D1) won their classes outright, and Joe Krispin (C1) shot-off for his win.

After the last shot was fired there were two shooters tied for HOA with 397, with Owen Knight getting his payback after losing the .410 championship with his HOA victory over Chris Phelps (RU). Other class winners were Glasby, Jr. (AA), Cameron Baker (A) in a shoot-off, Doug Trautman (B), Paul Hawkins (C) and Ron Simmons (D). All in all, it was a pretty good showing for the weekend by a field of 60 competitors!



High Over All
Phelps (RU) – Knight (CH) – Glasby (AA1)

The Michelson has a "leisurely" format with two flights in the morning; a break for lunch; and then the afternoon flights. Untold thanks and appreciation go to Harry's daughter, as well as all of the referees and volunteers. St. Joe is an ENTIRELY all-volunteer club, and one of the best run facilities in the country. So, if you haven't been to a shoot at St. Joe Valley, I strongly recommend you find your way here next year. Their premier shoot is the Mid-America the third weekend in July or, if you prefer something more "relaxed", come and shoot the Michelson on Memorial Day weekend (everything wraps up on Sunday, so you'll be home to bar-bee-que with friends and family Monday!). We hope that you can participate in one or both events – you won't be disappointed!

– Trish Magyar