

RELOAD!

Celebrating Our 25th Year



September 2012



THE LOBSTER CLASSIC

Jeff Hunter

Thirteen years ago Geoff Gaebe, Al Anglace, and Bruce Buck conjured up a plan for the biggest shoot in New England; the Great Eastern Lobster Classic. The main ingredients to this shoot would be an attractive venue, good camaraderie, killer targets and a fair price. The "Traveler's Style" included a lobster boil, strawberry shortcake, prizes galore, adult beverages, and of course cigars. Our fellow travelers served as referees in those early days and they did it all for \$135 for the two-day 200 target event.

Fast forward to August 2012 and most of those same traditions remain. The "Great Eastern Lobster Classic", or "da Lobsta" in Rhode Islanderese, still remains the premier sporting clays event in New England. The Lobster boil remains as does the strawberry shortcake, prizes galore, cigars, and adult beverages. Today's Lobster Classic even features a Fireworks show after dinner. Many aspects remain the same, yet time dictates changes.

From those early successes, the Gaebe family has taken the ball and run with it making the shoot even better each year. When mastermind Geoff Gaebe passed away, Paula and the rest of the group at Addieville East Farm continued the established traditions. This year's Great Eastern Lobster Classic was dedicated to the memory of CT Travelers Club President Al Anglace, and Paula gave a very heartfelt speech at the banquet in Al's honor and all attendees raised a glass to the memory of our fallen leader.

We arrived in Mapleville on Friday after the festivities were already underway for a day. The FITASC and sub-gauge courses were open on Thursday, August 9th for those that just couldn't fit in 700 targets over nine events in three days. Andrew Perlman and I got a good look at the 20/28/410 courses in the morning with each of us shooting two events. All three sub-gauge courses used the same stations, but there were three machines at each stand. The presentations were challenging enough for the little guns that there were no 50s. One station had a rabbit that passed not 10 feet in front of you. I don't care what chokes come

with your gun, your pattern is about 3" wide at that point and you have to be dead on for a kill. Ed Davies joined us and we shot the pump gun event before Lunch. I ended up borrowing Ed's gun for the event and let's just say that the gun shoots better for me.

While the side events are fun, we're here for the 12 gauge targets. The prelim course on Friday was a good warm-up for the challenges to come in the next two days. The targets were generally fun with lots of time to make your plan and shoot. There were two separator stations of some birds with decent distance, but everybody came off the course thinking the targets were very fair. Just as we exited the course, the only rain storm of the weekend picked up and soaked us to the bone. Still, we were done shooting so what could you really ask for?

Saturday was the first day of the main event. Two day events tend to reward people who shoot consistently and not those of us that get hot once in a while. Andrew and I were paired with first year Traveler Mike Shewokis and his lovely wife Darcy. Darcy served as our "Team Manager" both days collecting the scorecards from the trappers and setting them up to hand to the next trapper. Saturday's station 3 was a fast and low chandelle followed by a right to left quartering bird on the right. The trap for the chandelle was obscured by some trees so you had a hard time locating it. By the time the target came out, it only had a little more rise and then most of its flight was a decent. Add in the crossing nature of the bird and you had to some pretty interesting lead pictures.



Mike Shewokis at the Great Eastern Lobster Classic

Station 11 on Saturday was an Addieville signature pair of tower birds. Let's make that a black standard and a black midi true pair about 40 yards out against a blue sky tower birds. Yeah, those Addieville signature birds.

Sunday seemed to be a case study of opposites. If one bird was fast at a particular stand, the other was slow. If one bird was incoming, the other would be going out. Station after station we could tell what was going to happen; near/far, fast/slow, high/low.

Station 12 or maybe 13 was four pair of an incoming quartering bird followed by an outgoing quartering bird. If you concentrated on the targets you could come out with an 8. Mike

crushed the first three pair on this stand and took a dead/lost on the last pair. I gave Mike the Lindsay Davis signature line; "You stepped out of the box before you stepped out of the box."

TRAVELERS TIDBIT

Do you remember the first time you were called to the podium and your fellow Travelers applauded you? Don't deprive the next person of the same experience.

It is often said that we don't lose tournaments on the hard birds, we lose them on the easy birds. That was more than apparent on station 14; four report pair of a long right to left crosser followed by a trap bird that came out under your feet. You think you have a guaranteed four on the trap birds and any of the long crossers will be gravy. As the first shooter I studied the crosser diligently from the ground and our squad climbed the platform to have our turn. I smoked the first pair and thought I was lucky. I broke

the crosser on the second pair but dropped the straight away trap bird thinking "huh?". Third pair was dead and lost again as was the final pair. I kept thinking I missed by the 6" between my ears.

Our squad was directly behind Don Hutchinson and his crew on Saturday and Sunday. It's always a good day when you can pull up to a station in a golf cart going about 20MPH and lock on the brakes just as Don is shooting. He tends to appreciate that and I encourage you to try that next time you see him.

JUNIORS OUTDOOR JAMBOREE

Jim Comiotes

The Second Annual Junior Outdoor Jamboree is Saturday, September 22nd at Orvis Sandanona. We are looking for volunteers to help with the event. If you are able to help in any way, please send an email to Jim Comiotes at comiotes.james@gmail.com or call (914) 260-5891.

SHOOT LOGISTICS

Fall is my favorite time for shooting and September brings Septembershutzenfest at Ten Mile River Preserve. Along with the world class clays and food, we will be adding a twist for this month's shoot. We are adding a special "Side by Side" sub-class to the regular scoring process. If you shoot a SxS on September 16th, you will automatically be competing in the SxS sub-class in addition to your regular Travelers Class and appropriate sub-classes.

You will also note that we have added two check-boxes to the entry form; "Unable to attend lunch" and "SxS". Check off the "SxS" box if you intend to shoot a SxS action at this month's shoot.

We hope and encourage you to attend the lunch and awards ceremony after the shoot. The CT Travelers is a social group first and a competitive organization second. However, we

understand that from time-to-time things come up and you can only attend the shoot. By checking the "Unable to attend lunch" box, you give us a more accurate head count for the caterers. Checking this box does not reduce the cost of the shoot, the price of lunch is always included in the entry fee. If you check this box, the lunch portion of the entry fee will be allocated to the Juniors General Fund.

We have also had some confusion on the entry form in the Juniors box. You only need to circle 12 or 20 if the shooter listed is a Junior. We use this information to make sure we have the appropriate supply of ammunition on the shoot day. If you are not a Junior, you don't need to check either option.

If you need any assistance filling out the entry form, please see <http://www.ctsca.org/node/1762> or contact Jeff Hunter or John Hachmann.

SPORTING SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Each year we recognize one person or organization that has exemplified the values and vision of the CT Travelers as the Sporting Sportsman of the Year. Each year the award is given at the Christmas Shoot at Mid-County. The Sporting Sportsman Selection Committee is starting this year's search early and we would like any suggestions for people to consider. You can contact any of the committee members with your suggestions; John Hachmann (johnhachmann@yahoo.com), Donna Galotto (battaue02@msn.com), Steve Monti (spmonti@msn.com), or Jeff Hunter (marist89@optonline.net).

25th ANNIVERSARY LOGO GEAR

We still have some of the CT Travelers 25th Anniversary gear left. We will be bringing the following items to the remaining shoots for 2012:

- Blue or Khaki colored Golf Shirts with "CT Travelers, 25th Anniversary" embroidery (\$25)
- Grey or Pink T-Shirts with the CT Travelers 25th Anniversary Logo screen printed on the back (\$10)
- Blue or Khaki colored baseball caps with "25th Anniversary" embroidery (\$15)
- Blue or Khaki colored golf towels (\$10)

If you have been on the fence about your shopping, now is the time to get your logo gear for the best selection.

CT STATE SHOOT CUPCAKES

Jeff Hunter

Last year's Connecticut State Shoot was postponed due to Hurricane Irene coming ashore in Connecticut. A year later, we saw nothing but three days of nice weather at Fairfield County Fish & Game Protective Association.

The CT State shoot ran from Friday, August 24th through Sunday, August 26th. The format was sub-gauge FITASC on Friday, 12 gauge FITASC on Saturday, and the main event on Sunday. Sub-gauge FITASC is gaining popularity nationally and we had a pretty good turnout last year. This year the event drew 18 shooters to take their chances at 75 targets over three old-style parcours. Travelers Vice-President, Dean Anglace, walked away with the HOA in 20 gauge and Traveler Jim Comiotes took the HOA in 28 gauge.

Saturday's FITASC was also 75 targets over three parcours. The parcours layout and target setting was superb and maybe the best I've ever seen in my short 16 month career of shooting FITASC. Parcours 1 was the close but technical targets. A flying rabbit was utilized on every peg and his presentation changed from a quartering away to an in-your-face flying rabbit. Smart use of green birds and incoming birds lulled you into a false sense of security.

Parcours 2 was the "specialty" bird layout with only one standard target and the rest 90s and battaues. On all three pegs was a battaue that was on edge for maybe 20 yards and it looked like it was going to tip to the shooter. Just as it looked like it was going to show some face, it rolled over and eventually tipped away from the shooter. By the time it was full face, it was 80 yards away and there was no way you were going to catch it. The layout also featured a 40 yard going away trap teal and a 45-50 yard crossing target (the only 110).

Parcours 3 was something you would expect to see at a major tournament with varying terrain. All three pegs of this layout had a drastically different presentation. The battaue at peg 1 was a straight forward 30 yard battaue that showed face at the apex. The same target on peg 2 was an on-edge crossing target at 60 yards and showed just a little face at 40 yards. The tough crossing bird at peg 1 became a straight away trap target on peg 2 and an incoming quartering bird at peg 3. Very smart use of terrain in terms of the peg placement kept shooters guessing and made this a very enjoyable parcours. Traveler Christian Suter walked away with the FITASC crown devastating the rest of the field by 7 birds.

Sunday's main event brought another beautiful day for breaking clay. The field of 116 tackled 100 birds over 16 stations for all the marbles and title of CT State Champion. The Sporting Clays committee at FCFGPA is getting really sophisticated in their target setting ability. They set a course in which every bird was hittable but you had to work for every single one.



CT State Champion Christian Suter

Station four was a true pair of crossing targets that descended from the top of a hill down to the shooter. Sometimes the targets were close enough to get with one shot, sometimes they were just far enough apart to have to take two shots. Complacency on the part of some of my squad mates lead them to believe that they hit both birds with one shot only to have the trapper call "dead and lost". The call was confirmed by the referee and the lesson was learned.

Station 12 was a flying rabbit followed by a slow right to left curling target. The rabbit started off in the clear blue sky but my ideal break point was just as the target crossed into the tree canopy. This forced me to shoot a little earlier than I wanted because there was no way I was going to shoot a falling rabbit. However, this put my gun in an awkward position for the second bird that was very low and close to the shooter.

Station one was our last station and my squad was exhausted for the day. The quartering bird off a raised platform about 30 yards left of the shooter. The best place for me to shoot it was right as the target came off the arm and maintained some elevation. Of course, I figured this out on my third pair. A 40ish yard straight-up/straight-down teal was station one's report. There was a surprising number of misses on the teal.

As Mike Shewokis said, the only cupcakes at Fairfield were desert after lunch! Christian Suter came away with the "W" with Eric Steinkraus breathing down his neck for Runner Up. Special thanks to FCFGPA for inviting the sporting clays community to your club and executing another championship level shoot.

CART DO'S AND DONT'S

Golf carts and ATVs have become an integral part of our sport. We use them to haul our aging bodies and all the associated paraphernalia we "must" have with us to complete our round. Here is a summary of the "Rules of the Road" for motorized vehicles:

- DO park your trailer in a designated trailer parking area.
- DO NOT use the course as your opportunity to "open 'er up".
- DO stay on the cart path.
- DO follow the Tonucci Axiom; two person carts are for two people, not four.
- DO NOT go screaming past somebody shooting in the box.
- DO leave room on the cart path for other vehicles to pass.
- DO NOT pull up three feet from the shooting stand.
- DO NOT go into areas if they are roped off.
- DO be courteous of walkers and give them the right of way.
- DO have proof of insurance available for your vehicle at host clubs that request it.

Remember that we are invited guests at a great number of clubs where we shoot. We want to respect their facility so we are invited back another time. Cart courtesy is just another way to show our appreciation to our hosts.

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Due to a very generous contribution by Bruce Buck and Roland Leong, every single issue of Reload! ever published is available online at <http://www.ctsca.org>.

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TENTATIVE CTSCA SHOOTING CALENDAR

September 16, 2012	Septembershutzenfest (Ten Mile River Preserve)
September 28-30	Fall Trip
October 14, 2012	Small Gauge Championships (FCFGPA)
November 11, 2012	Islanders vs. Mainlanders (Suffolk County Trap & Skeet)
December 16, 2012	Dick Losee Memorial Shoot & Christmas Party (Mid County)
January 20, 2013	Mid-Winter Martyrdom (Mid-Hudson)
February 17, 2013	Annual Meeting (Beretta Shooting Grounds/Dover Furnace)
March 17, 2013	The Original March Madness (Orvis)
April 21, 2013	Tax Time Revolt (Ten Mile River Preserve)

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*Congratulations to the
CTSCA on their
25th Anniversary Year.*

The upcoming **CTTRAVELERS** Monthly Shoot

Septembershutzenfest

Sunday, September 16, 2012

Ten Mile River Preserve
266 Berkshire Road, Dover Plains, New York

DIRECTIONS: Route 84 West, exit 20/Route 684 North to the CT/NY State Lines. Take Route 22 North towards Pawling. Continue on 22 North to Dover Plains. At the traffic light turn right onto Mill Street (just past McDonalds) and continue to Berkshire road on the left. Follow Berkshire road to the Lodge. (845) 877-3560. Park in the lot adjacent to the lodge, conveyance will be provided to your starting shooting stand.

September is Side by Side Month for the CT Travelers! If you want to shoot the old cross-eyes, you will be entered into a special sub-class just for side by sides. If you are shooting a SxS, check the box below.

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Your application must be received on or before
Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

Continental Breakfast opens at 8:30AM at the Lodge.
Safety at 9:45, conveyance to your starting station will be provided.
Includes a luncheon with Open Bar following the shoot at the TMRP lodge.

Members \$75; Guests \$90; Lunch Only \$15.

Mail this application and your check payable to CTSCA to:
CTSCA, c/o John Hachmann, 35 Columbine Lane, Kings Park, NY 11754

	Name <i>List names being paid with the enclosed check.</i>	Junior <i>Circle One</i>		Lady	Vet1	Vet2	Guest	Unable to attend lunch	SxS
You		12	20						
2		12	20						
3		12	20						
4		12	20						
5		12	20						
6		12	20						

Contact Number in the event of last minute shoot changes: _____

If possible, please squad with: _____

Your application must be received by the required date for preferred squadding. All cancellations must be received by close of business on the Thursday before the scheduled shoot. Any cancellations after Thursday or "no shows" will forfeit their entry fee. If you need assistance filling out this form, please consult <http://www.ctsca.org/node/1762>.



CT TRAVELERS SPORTING CLAYS ASSOCIATION

JUNIORS OUTDOOR JAMBOREE

A COMPLIMENTARY DAY DEDICATED TO
THE JUNIOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST



<http://www.orvis.com/sandanona>

September 22, 2012
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

3047 Sharon Tpke.
Millbrook, NY, 12545

This day is dedicated to you, the Junior Outdoor Enthusiast and your Family and Friends. There is **NO CHARGE** for any activity with the exception of food. We would love to have you enjoy this special day with us.

To register please email ctscajamboree@gmail.com indicating the number of juniors and adults attending



ARCHERY - DOG TRAINING EXHIBITION-CLAY TARGET EVENT - FLY FISHING - AIR RIFLE - SHOTGUN -22 RIFLE DEMO & PARTICIPATION - COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

A mandatory Safety Orientation will be provided prior to any participation. Must be age 10 if accompanied by an adult and age 12 to use firearms.