



Pacific Sporting Arms Championship

May 28, 29, 30

Los Angeles, CA

After having been locked down for over a year, Californian skeet shooters have been itchy to compete. Few would have guessed that a tournament would be held in Los Angeles of all places. They would have been wrong. In fact, the Pacific Sporting Arms Championship was the largest skeet event in California so far in 2021. A total of 47 shooters played. The tournament was held at the newly revamped LA Clays facility. The new owners have been working diligently to make the property everything the shooters are looking for. Thank you Ryan Mullen and Betsy James.

Let us lead with our terrific name sponsor. John Herkowitz and his team at Pacific Sporting Arms agreed early in the year to host the event. Jordon Hirschi and Kenny White lead the charge for John. And true to Mr. Herkowitz' wishes, the event was focused on Class Shooters. After all, they are the lifeblood of our sport. John, Jordon, and Ken stepped up big. Terrific awards consisted of gear, bags, pouches, and cases. Thank you PSA and all your vendors; Briley, Beretta, Caesar Guerini, Kreighoff, Perazzi, and Zoli.

Speaking of sponsors, there was a team of supporters without whom the event could not have been possible. Administration was handled skillfully by Tina Stephens. Count on a smooth event when she's at the helm. Andre Frey constructed and moveable structure for our scoreboard, a regular center of activity. And of course it wouldn't be a California tournament without a Keith Phelps scoreboard. Bill Borrelli was on duty running scoresheets and assisting in every way possible. John Lyman trained all the referees, a critical function. Thank you to everyone for the hard work.

Typical So Cal weather consisted of gray marine layer mornings with the blue sky coming through early afternoon. Temperatures were low to mid 70's all weekend. Just about perfect. Shooters came from all over the area including Northern California and Arizona.

Doubles began at noon on Friday. 23 of the 47 total shooters competed in the first event. Scores were solid but none better than Jack Bernardi and Rick Anderson's 96's. After the shoot off it was Jack CH, Rick RU. Lyman AA1, Wayne Cagle A1, JR Fernandez B1, and Keith Phelps winning C class. Shawn Petty was the Junior champ.

The 12-gauge commenced Saturday morning. Several new shooters competed in this event only. Good to see. In fact, for Joshua Wang this was his first tournament ever. He and his pal Joshua Oshiro began shooting earlier in the year. They have been practicing and working to gain skills. Talk about success. Mr. Wang ran 100 straight in his first ever tournament. You read that correctly, his **first ever tournament**. There was one other straight in the 12-gauge. After a 7 station shoot off, Mark VanRyzin beat Joshua for CH, Wang RU. Of course, Josh's hat

was ventilated. Following them were Frey AA1, Bernardi A1, Dennis James B1, Brad Young C1, and Daniel Ellison D1. Jean Berry was the Lady CH.

Lunch was provided to the shooters thanks to more generous sponsors. Ted Ingle, Dennis James, Chris Baker, and of course PSA. Fantastic street tacos were on the menu. Delish! If you didn't get your fill, it was your own fault. Make it a point to have lunch at the café when you come to LA Clays.

Following lunch the 20-gauge was contested. This time only one hundie was posted followed by a slew of woulda-shoulda 99's. Baker was Gun Champ, and after the shoot offs Ken Furuta was RU. John Benson from Nor Cal took AA1, Jack Campbell (also from Nor Cal) A1, Young B1, Frey C1. Again, Jean Berry was the Lady Champ.

As the 28 was contested on Sunday it was clear several races were underway. Good shooting abounded. By noon a couple of 99's, and slew of 98's, and some 97's were on the board. After the dust settled two visitors were on the podium. Campbell CH, and Arizona's Mike O'Keefe RU. Eric Kirk had AA1, Benson A1, Dennis James B1, Steen Thomsen (no P) C1, and Ellison D1.

Going in to the 410 several were in the HOA hunt. And as usual it always comes down to the half-ouncer. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. How about this? Host Jordon Hirshci won the 410-bore event after a shoot off with Campbell. Class champs were O'Keefe AA1, Young A1, Walter Cheng B1, Junior Shawn Petty C1, and finally Jean Berry D1. Great shooting everyone.

There was a four way tie at 388 for the lead including two out-of-towners. After a brief shoot off Jack Campbell won the HOA title, O'Keefe RU. Hall-of-Famer Joe Falabrino AA1, Benson A1, Young B1, Petty C1, and Ellison D1. Finally, James and Lyman shot off the HAA with Dennis emerging as the champ. Whew, what a weekend.

At the end of the day everyone settled in front of the clubhouse for awards. Kenny and Jordon, assisted by Tina handed out so much gear it was mind boggling. High quality and a class act. Smiles abounded.

You can't have a shoot without shooters. Thank you to all the participants. We always ask our group to support the sponsors. Please do. Make it a point to visit LA Clays and Pacific Sporting Arms when you're in Los Angeles. When you think about it, why wouldn't you want to visit So Cal in May? Apparently about 50 people felt the same way. Come shoot with us.