

# California State Championship Skeet Shoot

## July 1-3, 2022

LA Clays hosted the California State Skeet Championships over the holiday weekend preceding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. A total of 67 shooters competed across five events plus HOA and HAA.

Enjoying pleasant Southern California weather and calm winds the action began with the Doubles Championship on Friday afternoon. Winning the event outright with his first career 100 was Muhamed El-Zoghbi. A recent transplant from Virginia he's been making his mark locally both for excellent shooting and warm camaraderie – welcome!

Somewhat warmer weather greeted the shooters Saturday when the 12 and 20 Gauge events would be contested. Northern California shooters paced the first event with junior shooter Rocky Romo and Joe Fry tying with perfect scores. After a two box shootoff, Rocky prevailed as champion with Joe taking the runner up position. Rocky continued his performance in the 20 Gauge event, placing the only perfect score to win the championship outright. To help combat the heat ice cream for all competitors and their guests was supplied through the generosity of Ted Ingle, thanks for your support.

In other notable events on Saturday, joining us were five junior shooters from the recently established St. Lucy's school shotgun team. Dipping their toes into registered competition, the girls showed great progress in developing their skeet game as well as excellent sportsmanship. Certainly we'll be seeing them on the winner's podium very soon. Closing out the day was the Hall of Fame induction dinner honoring Tina Stephens, long time organizer and patron saint of SoCal Skeet Shooting – congratulations on this well deserved honor.

Shooting resumed on Sunday morning for the 28 Gauge and .410 bore events with cooler temperatures and a marine layer breeze pushing the targets for the afternoon events. At the close of the 28 Gauge event Joe Fry and Daniel Bocks found themselves tied with perfect 100 scores. Prevailing in the shootoff was Daniel, leaving the runner up slot to Joe. No perfect scores were recorded in the .410 event. Winner was Shane Groover with 98 leaving a four way tie of 97s between Rocky Romo, Joshua Deburger, Shakib Akbari and Dennis James was shot off. Prevailing in the shootoff was Rocky Romo for Runner up, and Shakib Akbari taking third.

Finally, Rocky Romo takes the tournament HOA Champion with 396. Shane Groover bested Jake Reel by three targets for Runner-up with 393 and 390. AA winner was Joe Fry with 389 and Dennis James takes A class with the same score. B class champ with 386 was Ken Furuta, new CSSA board member Shakib Akbari taking C with 381, D going to C. Neil Vann with 343 and rookie shooter James Huynh taking E with

338 accomplishing his goal of winning a belt buckle. An awards ceremony and distribution of awards followed the shootoffs sending everyone home with great memories of a well run shoot. Thanks to everyone on the CSSA board and staff at LA Clays for making it happen.

In another notable events, St. Lucy shooter Sidney Nafarrate, with a tube set freshly back from Briley, competed in her first ever sub gauge events putting up scores consistent with her 12 gauge scores. At the other end of his career, C. Neil Vann announced his intention, after 414,400 NSSA targets, to retire from registered shooting due to advancing age. Congratulations on a great career and remember you can revisit that retirement decision should your health allow!

By James Huynh