

History Made in Peoria at 72nd Annual Three-I

By Bud Shipp



(L) Mike Schmidt Jr.

(R) James Barnard III

Perfect 500/500

The 72nd Annual Three-I Championships were held May 20-22 at Peoria Skeet and Trap Club in E. Peoria, IL. History was made when Mike Schmidt Jr. and James Barnard III posted 5x5's on a beautiful weekend with little wind, no rain, and few, if any, white puffies. Schmidt is no stranger to 5x5's, but James made it his first. James had three firsts this past weekend. His Doubles score was his first 100 in that event, HOA his first 4 by, and HAA his first 5 by. All of this after having had five teeth pulled the week before. He still had enough swelling that he couldn't practice until he got to Peoria. James was still rinsing his mouth with salt water and couldn't eat anything remotely solid.



(L)-3rd Phil Poston (C)-CH Mike Schmidt Jr. (R)-RU James Barnard III

The Doubles event was shot on Friday. Two 100's were posted. Schmidt came away with the CH, Barnard III was RU, and Phil Poston took Third with a 99. Finger food was served after the shoot offs and preparations were made for Saturday's events.



(L)-CH Steve Patke (R)-3rd Bill Buettenbach

Saturday was another picture perfect day. Eleven straights were tallied in the 12 Ga. event. In one lap, eleven became five. When all was said and done in the second box, Steve Patke earned the CH, Barnard III RU, and Bill Buettenbach took Third.



(L)-RU Bob Zeek (R)-3rd Becky McCumber

The 20 Ga. event only saw seven 100's scored. Schmidt took the class to school and walked away with the CH. Bob Zeek was RU and Becky McCumber earned Third. After the shoot offs, the traditional Butterfly pork chop sandwich meal was served with all of the great sides.



(L)-3rd Steve Timmons (C)-CH James Barnard III (R)-RU Mike Schmidt Jr.

Something odd happened Sunday that almost never happens at the Three-I. Perfect weather for a third straight day prevailed. Only five perfect scores were shot in the 28 Ga. There were two 100's in the 410—guess who? Usually the 28 is shot off first, but special circumstances call for special circumstances. The HOA was shot off first. Mike and James took their places on Field 5. James might have been overwhelmed at this point, he missed on Station 3 and it was over just that quick. After changing tubes, the 28 Ga. shoot offs commenced. This time Barnard III won CH and Schmidt RU. Steve Timmons was Third.



3rd Dennis Jameson

Mike and James had the only 100's in the 410. Mike took CH and James RU. Dennis Jameson garnered Third with a 99. The HAA shoot off had Mike finishing CH and James RU. The year 2016 will go down in Peoria Skeet and Trap Club's history book with the 5th and 6th 4 bys and the first two 5 bys.

There were lots of compliments all weekend regarding the shoot and that just doesn't happen without thanking a lot of folks. Thanks go to the following: Chief Ref-John Bratty and his crew; Registration and computer-Becky McCumber, Jack Dean, Ed Dean; Score board-Barry Hall; Trap Mechanic-Jim McQuinn; Lunch and counter help-Mike and Brenda Dennis, Larry and Lora Murphy, Gerry Franklin, Pete Bartolo, Cindy Horrie; Chop Cooks-Jack Hill, Greg Hufnagel, Steve Schnubusch; Saturday dinner Hostess-Linda Dean; and the Officers and Board of Directors of Peoria Skeet and Trap Club. Come see us May 2017. We'll show you a good time.