

# Regional Tournaments



## 2008 California State Championship

By Brad Glustoff

For four days in mid-June, shooters had the opportunity to shoot more than 700 registered targets, participate in the state's first ever "green" FITASC event, and help shoot scoring and registration wizard Lois Lessing celebrate her birthday as Triple B Clays in South El Monte hosted the California State Sporting Clays Championship. With the cost of ammo and gasoline going up and the economy weakening, club owners Bruce and Billie Barsotti were happy to have over 200 shooters attend.

Fresh from his Zone 7 Championship win in Arizona, recent addition to the Triple B staff Zach Kienbaum turned in the top score in the 20 gauge, was one bird out of first place in 28, and tied for third in .410 on Thursday.

Friday's preliminary saw unusually warm temperatures for southern California. What would normally be mid-70s with cool ocean breezes was instead mid-90s and dead calm. Texan Scott Robertson drew first blood in the prelim with a temperature-matching 95, and Kienbaum was four birds back with 91, the only scores in the 90s.

"I like to throw true pairs," Bruce Barsotti remarked of his presentations that seem more difficult than the individual targets. "That forces you to shoot one of the birds out of your comfort zone. When you do that, there's no need for extreme speed or distance."

To host a state championship, a club must hold a FITASC event. For Triple B to do so, it had to use part of its land controlled by the Army Corp of Engineers, which required a "green" event. And even though the corps controls the land, it's leased by the County of Los Angeles, which in turn leases it to Triple B.

Barsotti said it took "months



Zachary Kienbaum was the top shooter at Triple B Clays, winning the championship with a seven-target lead.

### 2008 California State Championship Triple B Clays South El Monte, California June 19-22, 2008

#### Main Event

HOA	Zachary Kienbaum	181
RU	M. Dieleman Jr	174
M1	Brad Sutton	174
M2	Tom John	172
M3	Justin Fox	167
AA1	Steve Marshall Jr	168
AA2	Sheryl Lawrence	149
AA3	Scott Mitchell	149
A1	Brian Elia	154
A2	Guy Savidan	151
A3	T. Van Loben Sels	149
B1	Craig Martin	144
B2	Chad Roberts	140
B3	Allen Pinoli	140
C1	Jimmy Heller	156
C2	Ron Gibbons	149
C3	Randolph Freitas	140
D1	Chase Bell	143
D2	Peter Clifton	133
D3	Brad O'Rear	126
E1	Ronald Stomp	138
E2	Bob Coffman	120
E3	Chip Evans	116
LYCH	Sheryl Lawrence	149
LYRU	Katie Fox	138
LY3	Jennifer Bandy	134
SJCH	Cody Nielsen	141
SJRU	Josh Gomez	141
SJ3	Katie Fox	138
JRCH	Justin Fox	167
JRRU	D. Christoffersen	146
JR3	Chase Bell	143
VTCH	Larry Libsack	157
VTRU	Lee Schultz	149
VT3	Ron Gibbons	149
SVCH	Carl Westfall	159
SVRU	Don Criswell	154
SV3	T. Van Loben Sels	149
SSVCH	Albert Bogetti Sr	131
SSVRU	Jesse Bird	125
SSV3	Keith Radcliffe	116

and months of negotiations with both agencies" to secure permission. As soon as he guaranteed not to leave any lead shot or clay targets behind, they finally relented. Unfortunately, lead shot and clay targets are pretty much the bread and butter of our sport. The only solution was to shoot White Flyer Bio targets and Winchester's new Xpert Steel Upland Game & Target loads. Bill Daniels from White Flyer and Ellie Schad and Brad Criner from Winchester were on hand to answer any questions about the targets or ammo.

When you compare 1-oz. loads of No. 7 steel and No. 8 lead, you see that both loads contain about the same number of pellets. The fact that five boxes of Winchester shells were included in the entry fee made it that much easier for some shooters to take the plunge. Browning generously supplied Cynergy shotguns to anyone uncomfortable shooting steel through their gun.



The California State concurrent champions were (left to right) Super-Vet Carl Westfall, Lady Sheryl Lawrence, Veteran Larry Libsack, Junior Justin Fox, and Sub-Junior Cody Nielsen.

Dave Fiedler from Carson City, Nevada, set the FITASC course. Halfway through the event, he said, "I think it's going really well. This is really a test case, and I don't think the targets or the ammo are going to be detrimental to anyone's score." Saturday night's celebration of Lessing's birthday was accompanied by a Make-A-Break shooting demonstration by longtime competitors Brandon Powell and Tom John Jr. breaking lengthy birds from the hip.

At the halfway point in the main event, Josh Noble, Kienbaum, and Robertson were leading with 93, 92, and 91, respectively. Sunday brought more heat, and the scores and competitors showed its effect. There was speculation that the earlier flights might have an easier time of it, but it really didn't matter. When the dust finally settled, Kienbaum took HOA and the state champ crown with 181, edging out Robertson by just one bird. If you're keeping score, this win gives Kienbaum back-to-back state championships to match his back-to-back Zone 7 wins.

FITASC HOA was sometime California resident Powell, with 94. "These targets were definitely testy with steel shot," Powell remarked. "You definitely had to pay attention to what they were doing and adjust your leads." Now that Winchester's new load is available at the retail level, get a few boxes and try it for yourself.