

## **Goose Soars Like An Eagle At Mass State Championships**

By J. Makiver

The 2006 Massachusetts State Shoot welcomed close to 60 shooters who turned out at the Minuteman Sportsmen's club August 25-27<sup>th</sup> to participate in the State's most anticipated event: the State Skeet Championships. The practice fields were quickly filled by early Friday afternoon and before long the highly competitive Referees event was claimed by Bruce Allen.

Friday's Doubles event was won for the second time by the 2002 Doubles Champion Tony Viscariello. Runner-up was claimed by the 2005 Doubles Champion Marshall Steinbeck. Congratulations! Class winners include 'Tank' Campedelli, Kmiec, Makiver, King, Lovejoy, and Kamp D.

The 12 gauge event produced four 100's that shoot-off for CH & RU: Cossette, Lombardy, Troisi and Viscariello. This was an exciting shoot-off as neither Cossette nor Lombardy had ever won a State gun; but, they had their work cut out for them against two AAA State champions. It wasn't easy, but in the end they were victorious as Lombardy & Cossette took CH & RU respectively. "It's an achievement to win against three such accomplished shooters," said Mike Lombardy. Class winners include Viscariello, Carboneau, Belanger, Kamp A., Daigle, Hersch, and new junior shooter Sean McLellan.

"Sean's off to a great start this year," agreed (Referee CH) Bruce and Nancy Allen. "He's a young and talented shooter with a great deal of potential," said Bruce. "And I have no reason to be bias at all!"

Each year at this shoot there is a special emphasis on the 5-man team event. The winners get their names engraved on the perpetual 'Ralph Caponi' trophy. Congratulations to the 2006 winning team of Lombardy, Kanavos, Campedelli, Baglione and Wiedergott with a winning score of 490!

It was during the State shoot 20 gauge shoot-off that John 'Beaver' Mello experienced déjà vu. "I saw the freight train coming before anyone else at the July 20<sup>th</sup> Minuteman Classic", said Beav. "I stated then that 'Goose' Kanavos is going to evolve into a major threat at the Massachusetts State Shoot next month." Mike 'The Hound' Lombardy agreed. "A false program should be mailed to him," Mike suggested. "We'll tell him the State Shoot is in November." Dyson and Viscariello nodded together. "Something needs to be done," they agreed. Campedelli, meanwhile, was nursing Baglione who had just fainted from all the excitement. The object of their fretful attention, of course, was none other than the 2006 Minuteman Classic's HAA & HOA RU, Matt 'Goose' Kanavos.

'Goose' was flying high. He has a new pair of White Flyer eagles on his mantle thanks to his runner up HOA & HAA victories at the 2006 MMSC Classic. In addition, he won HOA CH at the Massachusetts AL Kelly Championships held at Old Colony every August. According to skeet chairman Fred Briggs, "Many big name shooters came to shoot the Al Kelly shoot this year. But only one posted a 199x200 to win HOA CH for

the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. It's a great achievement. A two-time HOA Al Kelly Champion is historic," he said. "There are some MA State perennial all-Americans who have never won the HOA and Matt's won it twice." According to an unnamed source, a life-size statue of Matt is being considered for the clubhouse grounds.

Five 100's were posted in the 20 gauge event: Goose, Dick Kmiec, Carmine 'Big Dog' Lombardy, Cossette and Mike 'Hound' Lombardy. This was a good old fashioned shoot-off with five serious and determined shooters that wanted to win! But, when the Goose honks, you've got to get out of his way. Even the Hound ducks for cover. 'Goose' Kanavos won the championship with Mike Lombardy RU. Class winners include Kmiec, Soares, Cossette, Lombardy C., Lovejoy, and Ernie Gray.

After the shoot-offs, participants were immediately invited to a free hands-on clinic by John Soares and Hans Drape on '*looking good while losing.*' "These guys do a first rate job," said Paul Moschella. "Their knowledge of the game and their expertise in fashion is unrivaled. My game will never be the same after taking their clinic."

The Saturday evening awards banquet featured a delicious prime rib dinner with all the trimmings. For the third year in a row, the Kamp family from Cape Cod received the largest pile of medals. "Andrew and David have had a tremendous year," declared Tom O'Donnell. "They've put the practice time in at the Falmouth Skeet Club this year and the results speak for themselves."

While George Morse and Fritz Wiedergott battled it out for the VTCH medals, Jessica King and Maureen Siemen received their share of LYCH & LYRU medals. "I have really enjoyed shooting the State Shoot this year," said Maureen. "It's my first State Shoot and it's been a great deal of fun. It's exciting to see so many people leave their home clubs and travel to Minuteman or Ludlow to compete for State pride. My home club, North Leominster, had four or five shooters compete this year."

Congratulations to John Strattos and Lou 'Tank' Campedelli who shot 200x200's during Sunday's 28 ga. & .410 events. Three 100's made it to the shoot-off field in the 28 gauge: Angelo Troisi, Strattos and Campedelli. Strattos has not yet won his first State gun so many people in the crowd had their fingers crossed.

"Angelo's going to be tough to beat," predicted Nick Morrione. "He's been shooting very good Doubles in practice." Don't ever bet against Nick 'Nostrodamus' Morrione. After Campedelli quickly folded like a duck shot at point blank range, Strattos hung in strong for the better part of a box until he yielded to Troisi. "John shot like a true champion today," said Angelo. Class winners include Campedelli, Makiver, Morse, Kamp A., Hersch, and Kamp D.

The .410 event was important to the State Shoot in that the renowned 2-man team 20 Gauge 2004 World Champions of Campedelli & Kanavos (aka Tank & Goose) shot a .410 200x200. "This will need to be researched," stated Dick Kmiec, "but at the very least they tied a State record that has not been duplicated in years."

Kanavos didn't want to waste a lot of shells in the .410 championship shoot-offs so he decided to win the event on station three. Strattos and Campedelli continued on the battle until Campedelli was declared RU. Class winners include John Dyson, John Soares (who looked great, by the way), Strattos, Kamp A., Tom Forrest and Kamp D.

Wenham's own Tim Clark said it best. "This weekend, the 'Goose' soared like an eagle." Kanavos won the HOA with the lone 398. Strattos took RU with a great 397. Class winners include Kmiec, Carboneau, Kamp A., Lombardy C., Kamp D., Ernie Gray and Maureen 'the Cheesecake Queen' Siemen.

When asked about his uncanny success this year, Kanavos was humble. "I have a very supportive wife at home who is my biggest fan. She loves to decorate the home with my shooting trophies. My success this year began shortly after taking an accredited domestic behavioral course by Professor Campedelli. Next thing you know, I won two bronze eagles at the Classic, the Al Kelly HOA, and now two State guns and the HOA. And, I'm participating at the World Shoot in October, ya know?"

Dick Lovejoy tearfully noted, "He shoots that old Perazzi better and better every year."

The MSSA wishes to thank the Minuteman Sportsmen's Club for hosting the shoot, the many shoot workers including Bill Batty, Fritz Wiedergott, Russ Lebel, shoot manager Lou Campedelli, Mark Belanger, Art Zonghetti, George Morse, Jean Voutas, Maureen Siemen and her ad hoc kitchen staff, our protest committee of Steinbeck, Kmiec and Mello, Nick Morrione, Bob Webb, Dick Haskins and his referees, and most of all the many generous sponsors of the State Shoot who annually contribute as boosters and/or advertisers. Your support makes all of this happen.

End.