

# Spring Break Open 2019

The Jackson County Sportsman's Club held the inaugural Spring Break Skeet Tournament on March 29-March 31 2019. This event was the largest registered skeet shoot in the club's history, hosting 24 competitors and throwing 7,300 targets over the course of the weekend. Doubles and 12ga was near-capacity for the two skeet fields, despite the brutal weather.

While March is supposed to come "In like a Lion, Out like a Lamb", this final weekend of march was almost the opposite. In the face of adversity, we had some impressive scores.

On Friday, our doubles shooters were treated to cooling temperatures (40's) with slightly gusting winds - finding some of the targets in interesting places. Our Champion, Ed Bowker, was able to fight the failing light, under very dark and cloudy skies, to shoot a 93.

Saturday brought with it the worst weather of the weekend. It had rained hard overnight, causing one of the canopies set out to collapse under the weight of the water. The temperatures started out in the high 30's and seemed to only go down from there. By the end of the day, the rain had turned to snow.

Skeet shooters showed their toughness, and competed through the worst of it to shoot their 12ga and 20ga events.

Especially impressive were the 8 Junior and Sub Junior shooters that decided to spend one day of their spring break competing. One of those Junior Shooters, Preston Lanehart, shot his personal best with a 97 (including his first 50 straight). After all of that, he found himself in a shootoff with Ed Bowker. At the shootoff, both competitors got off of station 3 cleanly and went on to station 4, where Ed

missed one target... and it looked as if Preston had as well, thinking that he had missed it - when Ed spoke up to say he had seen a chip! The referee agreed, and Preston won the 12ga. However, this wouldn't be Ed's final shootoff this weekend. Ed and Andrew Bielman found themselves at the top of the leaderboard with 95's for 20ga, where Ed won the shootoff to become CH, Jerry Kott took home 3rd.

As everyone went home Saturday night, there was mumbling of "At least there isn't supposed to be rain tomorrow, I can handle the cold". As we began hooping targets for the day on Sunday, there was a layer of snow on the field, and at 9am, it was becoming clear that it was not only going to be cold, but windy. At 9:30 the first flight of 28ga shooters took the field to find that a West wind was becoming stronger, and by the end of the 28ga, winds were near 25 miles per hour, straight across the fields, causing the high house to zip across - while the low house



*Andrew Bielman, Tom Pavlack, Brian Myers, Chris Davis (Ref) and Jerry Kott as the rain begins to turn to snow on Saturday.*

targets came to a halt in the strong headwind. At the end of it, three competitors were tied for champion, Edward Bowker, Tom Pavlack and Jerry Kott with scores of 92. The shootoff resulted in Jerry Kott CH, Edward Bowker RU and Tom in 3rd.

After some difficult 28ga scores, cold fingers and the wind unchanged, it was difficult for



*A light snow covers the grass on Skeet Field 1 in Jackson on Sunday Morning 3/31.*

the competitors to pull themselves out of the warm clubhouse - but out they went to try and beat the wind with their .410. When it was all said and done, Edward Bowker won the .410 event with a 94, Andrew Bielman took RU and Tom Pavlack brought home 3rd.

With this being the first Buckle race event of the year, our HOA scores are also the Buckle race leaders: For the A-B Buckle our leaders are; Edward Bowker (371), Andrew Bielman (365), and Ed Bowker (356) The C-D Buckle Leaders are: Brian Myers (334), Erik Jacobson (327) and Holly Bowker (325). Thank you to everyone who participated in the event, we look forward to next year (and better weather).