

## Delegate's Page ~ Report from the Grand Am. 2010

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Aug. 4, 2010

Well, today it was a little hotter, temperature-wise, than yesterday, but the humidity was lower by about 10 points so the heat index was only about 104F. Tomorrow there's supposed to be a break in the heat through Monday, then it will return to the upper 90s.

About 100 more shooters showed up for today's singles. AIM shooters should start to show up tomorrow. The AIM Championships will be contested at the same time as the NRA Singles on Saturday and Sunday. We have four squads from Golden Spike that will be coming to Sparta. Last year one of our AIM squads took third place, so I'm hopeful that we can at least equal that performance.

We'll be having shooters trickle in from now through Tuesday. I'm expecting that we will have about 35 shooters here (including the AIM shooters), which is the same as last year. I think that's pretty good. I'm glad that people are able to make it back here. I know it's not a trivial expense, but I do think it's something each shooter should do at least once.

I had a chance to talk to Gary and Carol Leske this morning. They were on the squad ahead of mine in the singles. They weren't enjoying the heat, of course, but they decided that since they were here they may as well make the best of it. They have decided to pick and choose which events to shoot, rather than feeling that they need to shoot them all. I thought that was a good strategy, after all, there are plenty of targets available and it's a long tournament. It's better to pace yourself and be fresh for Grand Week and the Championship events than burn-out on Preliminary Day events.

The second qualifier in the \$100k Challenge was determined today. Nathan Hofer, a Junior 27-yard shooter from South Dakota, broke the lone 99 to win today's handicap. I know that a lot of people have been saying that the "Big Dogs" will all be in the Challenge Shoot-off. But so far, the handicap winners have been holding true to Sparta form. Most of the winners in the past handicaps have been lesser-known shooters, not "Big Dogs."

Keep in mind that the Helper August shoot is this weekend. Please make it there if you can.

Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>

It was raining this morning as I left the hotel and headed for the WSRC. But by the time I got down there, the rain had stopped and although it was overcast, the weather wasn't too bad. Came to find out later in the day that apparently there had been a micro-burst, or at least local high winds, earlier in the morning that had turned over one trailer in the campground. A man was slightly injured in the mishap.

The front that moved through was good and bad. With it came lower temperatures (in the upper 80s), but it also brought higher humidity (also in the 80s). Oh well, you can't have everything.

I heard a rumor that Brian Hartley has made it here. I don't have a confirmed sighting yet, though. I've also heard that Lynn Roberts and Corey Stubbs are making their way here.

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So, as I mentioned yesterday, folks are starting to trickle in.

Attendance in today's handicap event was 925 shooters. This is 75 more shooters than last year. Rich Kaysa posted the lone 99 to qualify for the \$100k challenge. Things should start to get interesting this weekend.

Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>

Well, a "Big Dog" finally did it. Leo Harrison qualified for the \$100k Challenge with the lone 100 in today's handicap. It's also the first 100 straight in a handicap at this year's Grand.

Our own Big Dogs started showing up today too. I now have a confirmed sighting of Brian Hartley. And Lynn Roberts and Corey Stubbs pulled in this morning after playing tag team driver from Vernal.

I was also very happy to see Lynn's brother, Chad Roberts, this afternoon. Chad and his wife flew in today to spend a few days shopping at the Grand and cheering on Lynn and company.

Today's weather was very pleasant. With a high of 86F and humidity around 55% it was easily the nicest day so far. Tomorrow is forecast to be very similar.

We will shoot the 1st 100 of the NRA Singles tomorrow afternoon. At the same time the AIM Grand Championships will be contested. Earlier I said that we had four squads from Golden Spike competing, but today I talked with Ardith Stitt, and she told me that they had brought only two squads. All the same, I'm sure you all will join me in wishing them the best of luck in their competition over the next two days. I'll post the results as soon as I know them.

Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>

Worked the shoot-offs tonight, so I got in a little late. There were 6 98s at the top on the handicap, and not a "Big Dog" in sight. It had all the potential for a very interesting story: there was a 19 yd Sub Jr, a 20 yarder, a 22, a 23, a 24, and a 27 yarder (I think that's right; going from memory here.) Can't remember the name of the winner, but it wasn't the Sub Jr (unfortunately, that would have been a big story), and it wasn't the 20, 27, 24, or 23 yarder either [edit: Actually, the 27 yarder did win. The shooter I mention below shooting against Ronnie was on the 26. So much for remembering].

The 20 yarder (Ronnie Perkey, from Arkansas) took the Runner-Up trophy, and the 27 yarder took 3rd. I know that because I ref'd for Ronnie on his last four boxes. He and the 27 yarder went head-to-head for three rounds (on separate fields, of course) before it was decided. In between rounds, Ronnie mentioned to me that his brother-in-law lives in Vernal, so that kind of makes him an adopted Utahn. He also said that he's been struggling with a flinch for almost a year and last month he switched to a high-rib 1100 in hopes of curing it. Looks like he might have been successful. His R/U trophy in this event is a nice win.

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As some of you may know, I'm diabetic. Now being diabetic doesn't mean that I can't have sweet stuff; it just means that I can't overdo it. For the previous four years that the Grand has been in Sparta, I've avoided the home-made ice cream at the Butcher's Block (a local farm co-op food vendor in the "Tent Vendor" area) due to my being diabetic. But with the heat this year, and the fact that my blood sugar levels are good, I've decided to splurge a little. And I've got to say, this stuff is as good as everyone has said it is.

This is a half-size portion of home-made strawberry with a half-size portion of home-made peach on top of an excellent peach/blackberry cobbler (trust me, the cobbler is there, and it's excellent.)



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And here's a pic of another satisfied customer:



Jim has steadfastly refused to get cobbler with his ice cream (I'll confess, this is our second bowl, but the first was like two days ago, so we were due again); he says he doesn't need another craving. I'm pretty sure though that the next time we get ice cream, he'll have cobbler. I told him that life is too short to not have cobbler with your ice cream. He's weakening.

I'll keep you all posted on this battle.

Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>

Preliminary Week ended today with the conclusion of the NRA Singles and the Wenig Doubles.

Shooters continue to come in. Today saw the arrival of Mike Leshko, Lori Martin, and I believe that Lacey Clayburn has also arrived. This is Mike's first time at the Grand and he appeared to be suitably stunned; most people are the first time they see the WSRC. You can describe it to them all you want, but the sheer size of the place is hard to imagine until you stand at the Event Center and look east and realize that there are more traps beyond what you can see.

Mike is back here primarily to shoot in the Champion of Champions event on Thursday. As Singles Champion Runner-Up he is eligible to shoot in the CofC in the Champion's absence. Grand Week starts tomorrow with the Singles Class Championship. The weather is forecast to be hot with a heat index around 110F.

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Aug. 9

I believe that I took that during the "I don't need another craving" lecture. 😊

I tell you, we could have used some of that peach ice cream today because it sure was hot (heat index ~110F). Jim commented that he had never seen me get as sweaty as I was. I told him that's because I don't think I've ever sweated so much. It seemed like it was hotter during the first 100 targets (which we shot at about 11am), but I think maybe we were just acclimated by the time the 2nd 100 rolled around. Although it's more likely (and better in the long run) to think maybe we just resigned ourselves to being hot and sweaty and just got on with shooting the targets.

Today was the Singles Class Championship (a 200 target event.) Linda Gibson shot well on the 1st 100, posting a 100 straight. She then followed it up with a 96 on the 2nd 100.

Mike Leshko shot well in his first ever Grand event carding a very respectable 199. If he had been able to pick up that one target he could have joined the 18 other 200s in AAA in this evening's shoot offs. Oh well. The Clay Target Championship is Wednesday and that's a much more prestigious trophy.

I don't have all the AIM results yet, but I do know that Colton Anderson took Runner Up in A class in the Individual competition. I'm not sure how many shooters were in the A class (A is the top class in AIM), but I know there were a little over 1,000 AIM shooters at Sparta this weekend. So I think that the field was probably fairly large. Congratulations to Colton on that win.

Tomorrow is the President's Handicap and the Doubles Class Championship. It's also supposed to be as hot as today. But now that we're acclimated (😊) it shouldn't be a problem.

One last thing. For all of you folks who are not sure if you want to come to the Grand next year, it was announced at tonight's Opening Ceremonies that the \$100k Challenge will be part of the 2011 Grand American. Additionally, LeeAnn Martin has decided to do Bill one better, and she is putting up \$200k for a Lewis-based Challenge. The details aren't finalized yet, but it probably won't hurt to start making your Grand plans now.

See you in Sparta in 2011.

Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>

Weather: more of the same. Kinda gettin' used to it. Like I said above, as long as you resign yourself to the fact that you are going to sweat buckets, it's tolerable. Which isn't to say that I want to stand out in it all day, but it's endurable for an hour or so. But just barely.

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Thankfully there are ways to achieve respite from the heat. And it looks like George Cook has discovered one of the ways. Yes, there is yet another satisfied customer at the home-made ice cream stand.



This is his second bowl too. But the really criminal part is, he didn't get cobbler. I'm pretty sure his order will be different tomorrow.

Jim Lemmons' order was different today. As you may recall when last we encountered the intrepid trap shooting lawyer (to be), his potential for cobbler craving was exposed. Well, he made one big mistake. As we approached the ice cream stand, Jim said, "I'll get cobbler if they have peach cobbler. Just plain peach." And as luck would have it, they did have peach, just plain peach. Jim has now proclaimed that I will rot in hell for leading him down this path to iniquity. But at least he's had cobbler.

Aug. 13

Unfortunately, there wasn't much to report regarding the Clay Target Championship. As far as I know, the champion has yet to be decided, but I think it is down to three shooters.

Looking through the winner's list for Tuesday's President's handicap, I notice that Roger Stitt was Runner-Up in the 21 - 22 yardage group. Roger entered events 17, 18, and 19 in the hope of picking up at least a Medallion award; looks like he did even better than that. Congratulations Roger.

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Today we had a ferocious thunderstorm blow through at about 2pm. There was some damage to tents and RVs, but I don't think there were any injuries. Due to the delay caused by the storm, we weren't able to shoot the SportEar Doubles this afternoon. That event is moved to Friday morning at 8. Then we'll continue with the regularly scheduled events: the Kolar Handicap and the Doubles Championship.

Earlier in the day, the Champion of Champions event was contested and I'm pleased to report that Mike Leshko carded a 100 straight. I don't yet know the outcome of the shoot off, but I'm hoping for the best, of course. Our other champions shot respectable scores, but didn't prevail. Obviously, when you have most of the Champions from all over the country, anything less than perfection won't make it. But I'm very happy that we had almost all of our champions come to the Grand.

Corey Stubbs was in the Beretta shoot out this evening. I don't have the results of that yet either so I don't know how he fared.

We've had a very good turn out for the 2010 Grand. We have had 37 shooters participate in at least one event. For the Western Zone, our attendance is second only to California. I think it speaks to the dedication of the shooters of Utah that so many would come from so far away to experience the Grand. Be sure to ask the shooters I've mentioned above about their experiences. I'm sure that despite the weather, they've all had a great time.

Well, I've got to get up in about three hours, so I'm going to end here. My squad is first out in the SportEar Doubles at 8am.

Until tomorrow.

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>

Well, the 2010 Grand is winding down. The Grand American Handicap is in progress as I write this.

I noticed on the Winners List, that Roger Stitt picked up the 3rd Place New (2010) Shooter Medallion Award in the Clay Target Championship and Joe Roach took the Vet Class AA 3rd Place Medallion in the Doubles Class Championship.

Travis Oakey won AA 5th Place in the Doubles Championship.

Congratulations to all our winners.

In the Board of Director's Meeting Thursday evening the Board voted to permit the Executive Committee to negotiate and sign a 10-year lease extension with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Assuming the successful completion of this negotiation, that means that we will be at the World Shooting and Recreation Complex for

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the next 15 years (there are 5 years remaining on our current lease.) An extension of this length will allow the IDNR to request capital improvement funds which can be used to construct shade structures and additional cart paths and demonstrate to outside investors that there is a stable, long-term commitment to the area. Which hopefully will encourage the construction of additional hotels and motels in the surrounding area.

A 100 has just been posted in the GAH. It's a short yardage shooter. The \$100k Shoot Off should take place in a few hours.

Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>

The 2010 Grand American is now history.

I'm sure most of you know by now that the \$100k Challenge winner was Devon Harris. Devon won the shoot-off with 50 straight from the 27, besting Denis Bringelson who had a 48 (25, 23).

I was fortunate enough to referee for both the GAH Runner-up shoot-off that Devon won to qualify to be in the Challenge, and for one of the squads in the Challenge shoot-off. No one on the squad that I ref'd made it to the second round, unfortunately. I estimated that there were about 500 people gathered to watch on Saturday afternoon.

For this year's Grand, we had a very nice turn-out from the state. There were 38 shooters including 10 AIM shooters. This is up from last year.

The weather was hot, there's no denying that. But despite that I think people had a very good time. Hopefully some of the new shooters this year will make return trips in the future and some of you who have never been will decide to go. Don't let the hot weather this year deter you. It's not always that hot for that long; but it does happen, so be prepared.

The \$200k Lewis that LeeAnn Martin has created should generate a lot of interest in attending the Grand. Details of this option are posted here: [http://www.shootata.com/pdfs/200k\\_Challenge\\_Details.pdf](http://www.shootata.com/pdfs/200k_Challenge_Details.pdf)

So, start making plans to attend the 2011 Grand American. The dates will be August 2-13, 2011.

See you there.

Scott Hoover / Utah ATA Delegate