

# Nicholas Harden Wins Second Singles Championship, Ethan Ferris Claims First Doubles Championship and Darrel Murray is Three Time Handicap Champion



Nicholas Harden

Ethan Ferris

Darrel Murray

The 103<sup>rd</sup> West Virginia State Shoot was contested over July 10<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> 2024. The conditions were less than favorable with temperatures unusually hot. Daytime temperatures ranged from a low of 82 the day it stormed to 99 with up to 20mph winds made for unusually low scores all around, with that said, two hundred and forty seven shooters came from 15 states as far north as Massachusetts, as far south as Georgia and as far west as Illinois shot to at 140,400 targets over the five day tournament. Entries were up double digits in every event except for two with the five day shoot up nearly 6.5 percent despite the weather.

While most days the winning scores were on the low side the one exception was Singles Championship won with a 199, the top overall score, by Nicholas Harden his second Singles Championship. The first came in 2016 and only after a several round shoot off, this year he won outright. Having shot no targets this year and only one practice round in the morning Harden dropped one in the first hundred and ran the second. Runner-up Mikel Boone fought off three others in a four way shoot off all knotted at 192 to claim the honor. Classes and categories are as follows:

Class AA Mark Isner, 192; Class A Collin Hopkins, 190; Class B Michael Whitmore, 192; Class C Zane McHenry, 174; Class D Chris Craft, 178; Sub Jr Ethan Ferris, 193; Jr Marshall Supanik, 187; LDII Tammy Jackson Sub Vet Todd Sauble, 194; Vet Donald Lafollette, 195; Sr. Vet Scott Ross, 197;

Complete results here [Singles Championship Results](#)

[Singles Championship Scores](#)

Two time All American Sub Jr. Ethan Ferris broke the top score in doubles along with four time All American Sub Vet Mark Isner who did not answer the call for shoot off. Isner has 3 WV Doubles Championships first coming in 1999 and the other two were back to back 2022 and 2023. This is Ethan's first WV Doubles Championship. Ethan claimed several trophies in this years' tournament.

Complete results here [Doubles Championship Results](#)

[Doubles Championship Scores](#)

2024 All American Senior Veteran Darrel Murray has two other WV Handicap Championships won in 1989 and 1990. This year breaking the top resident score is his third. Darrel is also a two-time WV Singles Champion as well as the 1995 WV Doubles Champion with five WV All Around titles.

The Singles Non Resident winner Rick Diana with a score of 198, after a three way shootoff with Bethany Breighner who, after a two round shootoff, was the Lady One and John Bechtel who was Runner-up.

Ron Smith fended off two others in a two round shootoff for Class AA honors; James Bechtel did not answer the call for the Class A shootoff with Isaac McCoy to give McCoy the win when tied at 196; Class B laurels went to Bryce Leonard who shot a 194; Terry Patterson carded a 190 to take the Class C trophy and Class D went to Kevin Kunkle scoring a 192.

Non-Resident Category winners were: Sub Jr Jacob Gossett, 197; Jr AJ Vanravensburg, 197; Jr Gold, 197; LDI Bethany Breighner, 198; LDII Beverly Scott, 194; SubVet Eugene Leoni, 196; Vet David Dulin, 196; Sr Vet Richard Unruh, 192.

Complete results here [Handicap Championship Results](#)

[Handicap Championship Scores](#)

Preliminary Days	Wednesday :	<a href="#">Event 1 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 1 Scores</a>
		<a href="#">Event 2 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 2 Scores</a>
		<a href="#">Event 3 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 3 Scores</a>
	Thursday:	<a href="#">Event 4 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 4 Scores</a>
		<a href="#">Event 5 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 5 Scores</a>
		<a href="#">Event 6 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 6 Scores</a>
	Friday:	<a href="#">Event 7 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 7 Scores</a>
		<a href="#">Event 8 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 8 Scores</a>
		<a href="#">Event 9 Results</a>	<a href="#">Event 9 Scores</a>
		<a href="#">HAA Results</a>	<a href="#">HAA Scores</a>
		<a href="#">HOA Results</a>	<a href="#">HOA Scores</a>

Wednesday's Trophies are donated by Dodd's Sporting Goods 103 Maple Street, Ellenboro, WV 304.869.3200 They feature a large selection of new, used, vintage firearms and accessories. Convenient Layaway & gun pawning. Stop in and check us out. No tax on Firearms or Ammo in WV

Thursday's Trophies are donated by Cameron Bailey of Precision Steel LLC. And are custom designed by Cameron each year and usually has something to do with WV state history. This year's theme was WV Monsters and included Point Pleasant's Mothman, the Flatwoods Monster and the Grafton Monster laser engraved on Slate.

Friday's Trophies for Singles and Handicap were donated by Mead & Hunt architectural, engineering, planning, and construction services firm.

Whitetails Unlimited donated a \$1000.00 to the Jim Schad Youth Fund

Sheila Schad in addition to her annual donation of \$2500.00 to the Jim Schad Youth Fund also donated a Weatherby Model 82 that was Jim's to be raffled off at the state shoot it brought in \$900.00 to the fund.

Fred and MaryEllen of Dague's Farm Raised Beef and Eggs generously donates funds to cover target fees for the First 20 Junior or Sub Junior shooters signing up for Saturday's 200 bird WV Singles Championship during the 2024 WV State Shoot.

We thank all our supports for their continued support.

The annual membership meeting was held on Friday. The State Team was recognized and embordered jackets given to members:

#### 2024 WV STATE TEAM

##### FIRST TEAM

1	Capt. Mark Isner .....	0.9361
2	Scott Ross .....	0.8901
3	Bill King Jr .....	0.8877
4	Michael Snyder .....	0.8867
5	Morgan Gump .....	0.8782
	SubJr. Ethan Ferris .....	0.8892
	Junior Marshall Supanik .....	0.8848
	Sub Vet Steven Sprout .....	0.9136
	Veteran Robert Harden .....	0.9352
	Sr. Vet Darrel Murray .....	0.9190

##### SECOND TEAM

1	Capt. Andy Cooper.....	0.8852
2	Rusty McHenry .....	0.8516
3	Gary Gaither .....	0.8470
4	Zachary Pethtel .....	0.8448
5	Jeffrey Wade .....	0.8357
	SubJr. Zane McHenry .....	0.7910

Sub Vet Todd Sauble ..... 0.8640  
 Veteran Fred Dague ..... 0.8915  
 Sr. Vet Darrell Dowler ..... 0.8949



**Special Thanks To:**  
**Hayes Electrical & Superior Industrial Laundry for**  
**their Support of Awards for the**  
**West Virginia State Team**

Also recognized were Trap & Field WV High Average shooters:

WV High Singles Average	HARDEN, ROBERT N	4,100	0.9834
WV High Singles League	ISNER, D MARK	2,100	0.9719
WV High Handicap Average	MURRAY, DARREL	5,000	0.9074
WV High Doubles Average	HARDEN, ROBERT N	2,800	0.9439
WV High Doubles League	KING, BILL J	3,450	0.8890

2024 ATA All American Team Members

SubVet - Mark Isner                      SubJr - Ethan Ferris  
 Sr Vet - Darrel Murray                  Veteran - Robert Harden

Elections were held and without opposition all officers were reelected by acclamation

WV ATA Delegate Robert Harden  
 WV Alt. Delegate Nicholas Harden



WV 1ST Alt Delegate Darrell Dowler

President Matthew Hayes

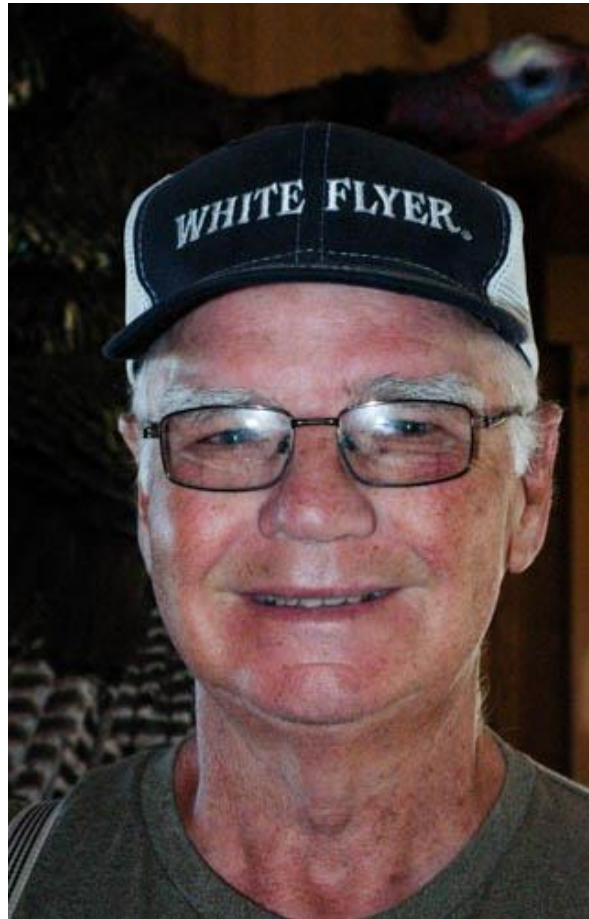
Vice President Rusty McHenry

Secretary Brandy Hayes

Treasurer Steven Sprout

**Things that happened at the State Shoot....**

Gary Holmes of Paden City shot at his combined 100,000 ATA registered targets.



Trapshooting secrets are closely guarded and are passed down only to assure preservation of the information. A Sr. Veteran All American in his twilight years has divulged one after forty three years. The new shooters from Scorched Earth Gun Club has been the recipient of this long held secret that, as a thirty five year shooter, I had never heard of. The Scorch Earth shooters embraced the practice at this year's WV State Shoot. Below is photographic evidence of the previously held secret.



A lettuce leaf on your head under your cap has a cooling effect.....who knew? While it didn't help their scores it was reported that at least one shooter found it raised his singles score five targets above his average for the week. But, wait... apparently lettuce only works for singles as found out by above shooter in handicap, while it is complete conjecture it is thought that a cabbage leaf is for handicap. Less is known for doubles as theories range from red cabbage to romaine or perhaps one of each since its doubles. The three on the left are headed to the Grand for testing while the fourth will man the analytical headquarters in West Virginia. Stay tuned for more updates as they happen.

WV's newest gun club, Scorched Earth, crowd often plays good natured practical jokes on their regulars and at the State Shoot it was no different, three of the principals were among the trophy winners. Tom Foolery was about when Randy Jones' third place handicap trophy was switched to a pair of tarnished salt and pepper shakers his initial reaction was priceless.





Not to be outdone Randy pulled one on Mikel Boone after Boone had vanquished three shooters tied for the Championship Singles runner-up spot. He talked the trophy staff in presenting Boone with this trophy, but it backfired, as Mikel wanted to keep it!

