

17th Annual Mike Kipp Memorial Skeet Shoot

North Bristol Sportsman's Club
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin
Saturday, May 8, 2021
By Lee Thomas

In his book *"Man's Search for Meaning"*, Victor Frankl wrote, "An abnormal reaction to an abnormal situation is normal behavior." He goes on to suggest that we will do whatever we have to do to survive whatever situations we're put in. Now that was a relief to know because for a while there we were pretty much in the "everybody for him/herself" survival mode when it came to toilet paper, sanitizer, and Lysol. (and now it's ammunition, and gas if you live in the southeast or on the east coast) After living through events that were so far outside our typical realm of "normal" it makes sense that the conversation has turned to "it's good to get back to normal" and to return to something familiar.

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, North Bristol Sportsmen Club hosted the 17th Annual Mike Kipp 4 X 50 Memorial Skeet Shoot. Life in the 608 returned to normal or as close to normal as can be expected. The Mike Kipp Memorial Shoot was established in 2004 at NBSC. The shoot was named in honor of Mike to recognize and memorialize his significant contributions of competitiveness, camaraderie, and character he brought to the sport. Gary Ellingson, the then Skeet Director at NBSC, is credited for getting the Kipp Memorial Skeet Shoot started. (See more about Mike Kipp below)



Left to right: Bill Schultz, Jenny Notstad, Greg Schweppe, Gary Wipperfurth, Russ Notstad

North Bristol Sportsmen's Club is located 16 miles north of Madison Wisconsin on the north edge of Sun Prairie, a few miles south of Columbus along highway 151. The NBSC, founded in 1970, is dedicated to the principles of sportsmanship, conservation, and education. The Club facilities include 1 combination skeet/trap field, 4 trap fields, 50-meter pistol range, 200-meter rifle range, Archery Target stations, and a 5-acre wooded walking course.

By 7:30 AM "target hooping" was completed and the clubhouse was buzzing while eating donuts and drinking milk. Under the skeet field shelter, shooters were pumped, the energy was high and positive. The competition was already fierce, and we were only completing the registration. But not as fierce as the camaraderie at low 7. A shooter who shall remain nameless missed low 7 three times. Missing low 7 has significant social obligation to all the other shooters.

The weather is always a concern when Wisconsin skeet shooters take to the fields in late April and early May. Forecasters predicted a 24% chance of rain with gentle winds of about 11 mph from the NE in the afternoon. We woke up Saturday morning to a low of 34 degrees with scattered frost. By the time Skeet Director Jeff Renk took the first flight (Bill Schultz, Jenny Notstad, Greg Schweppe, Gary Wipperfurth, Tony Pavelka) of the doubles event to the field, bluebird skies with big puffy white clouds, sun, and 47 degrees were the order of the morning.



Left to right: Paul Friesen, Jeff Renk, Lee Thomas, Jim Perpich, Ross Pettey

Paul Friesen posted a 46 on the second flight (Paul Friesen, Jeff Renk, Lee Thomas, Jim Perpich, Ross Pettey). Lee Thomas posted a 44 to earn RU. Jeff Renk and Gary Wipperfurth turned a pair of 41's in Class A and found themselves at station three to decide who would be A1. Two pairs later, Renk was declared A1. Jenny Notstad was B1 with a 43, Greg Schweppe (40) was B2. Bill Schultz won C1 with a 39. In Class D Tony Pavelka and Ross Pettey shot off a pair of 39's with Pavelka being declared D1.

In the 12-gauge event, Paul Friesen captured the CH with a perfect score of 50. Gary Wipperfurth posted a 48 to take RU. Jim Perpich's 46 won A1. Jenny Notstad's 47 took B1. Greg Schweppe (47) was C1, Bill Schultz (46) won C2, and Jeff Renk (45) won C3. Lee Thomas posted a 40 to win Class D. Tony Pavelka posted a 41 to win Class E.

By the time, the 28-gauge event started, a little after 12 PM, the bluebird sky, with big puffy white clouds had turned to a solid overcast. Some of the older shooters found themselves having to move their hold points out from the low house to acquire the target at stations 4 and 5. Then other shooters didn't seem to be affected at all. Paul Friesen won CH with a 49. Jim Perpich posted a 47 to take RU. Gary Wipperfurth was A1 with a 43. In Class B Jenny Notstad and Greg Schweppe posted 46's. Notstad survived the shoot-off to claim B1. In Class C Bill Schultz (40) was C1.



Jenny Notstad (and Greg Schweppe's shoulder)

In the .410 Bore Event, Jenny Notstad's 47 earned her the CH with RU going to Greg Schweppe who shot a 46. Paul Friesen's 45 earned him AA1, Gary Wipperfurth won A1 with a 45. Jim Perpich posted a 43 to win B1. In Class C, Bill Schultz's 42 won C1.

Paul Friesen posted a 190 to win HAA CH while Jenny Notstad turned in a 183 to win HAA RU.

Our special thanks to Bret Mittelstaedt for the meal following the shoot. The pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw, corn casserole, and pickled onions were incredible. There wasn't much talking going on during the meal...just eating. Thanks to Russ Notstad and Tom McDaniel for officiating, Tim for serving us lunch and beverages, and those who brought desserts to share.

MORE ABOUT MIKE KIPP

Mike Kipp was the long-time owner of Eastside Auto on Madison's Eastside. He operated the auto body shop for over thirty-five years. He graduated from Madison East High School in 1960. At East, he was an all-city football player and played hockey after high school for over forty years. During the last eighteen years of his life outdoors, hunting and shotgun sports were important to him. He won countless medals in trap, skeet, and sporting clays. One of his favorite competitions was the Badger State Games. In 1995 he took home a Bronze Medal. The next year he won the whole thing, a gold in trap, a gold in skeet, and gold for the overall high score.

Mike was a member of the Wisconsin Skeet Shooting Association and the National Skeet Shooting Association. He was a member of the Hope Rod and Gun Club, in McFarland, North Bristol Gun Club, Sauk Prairie Trap and Skeet Club, Lake Mills, and Millston in Jackson County. His son, Mike Jr. says that he shot four times a week and when he wasn't shooting, he was home loading shells to shoot the next day.

Mike Kipp was born on May 1, 1942, in Decorah, Iowa. He passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, August 10, 2003, while attending the Wisconsin State Skeet Championships at Brown County Sportsmen's Club in Green Bay, Wisconsin.