

## **2025 NSSA Kolar U.S. Open Skeet Championship**

### **Victor Rod and Gun Club (VRGCNY) 06/20–22/25**

**Contributed by Wes Bailey**

Victor, NY – Victor Rod and Gun Club was greatly honored to be selected as one of the 15 clubs across the United States and Puerto Rico to be a host site for the 2025 NSSA Kolar U.S. Open Skeet Championships. As the only host club in the Northeast, shooters came to VRGC from the regional area as well as New England and Canada. The shooters came to shoot well and they did. The fields were lush and well-manicured. The machines were dialed in to throw great targets against an open background. The scores reflected the skill of the shooters and the conditions.



*Figure 1: Dave Troiani demonstrates championship form*

VRGC was one of the smaller clubs for the Kolar U.S. Open Skeet Championships. However, the site produced two U.S. Open national champions and one runner-up as well as a Junior Champion. Canadian visitor Dave Troiani won the U.S. Open 12-gauge event by successfully taking his 12-gauge score of 100 through the lengthy shoot-offs. Congrats to Dave!



*Figure 2: Ed Smith- calm, cool and collected*

Similarly, Ed Smith captured the 20-gauge U.S. Open championship. Great shooting Ed! Cameron Baker won the 20-gauge Junior U.S. Open championship. In another great round, Dess Ivanov claimed the U.S. Open 410 bore runner-up title. Great job Dess!



*Figure 3: Dess endured the elements enroute to a great weekend.*

Dess had a great weekend all around. He captured the local HOA competition by two targets with an excellent 397x400. Ed Smith and Clay Tietjen each had 395s with Ed emerging from the shoot-off as local HOA runner-up and Clay as HOA third place. HOA class winners were Steve Wood (AAA), Don Lewandoski (AA), Dave Troiani (A), Shane Farr (B), Trevor Gleockner (C), Andrea Lehr (D), and Victor Stirpe (E).

The competition started with Doubles on Friday. The weather was pleasant with only a chance of isolated showers. Well, we were “blessed” with an isolated down pour late in the doubles round. Undeterred, Clay Tietjen and a rain-soaked Don Lewandoski posted fine 99s. Clay won the shoot-off for the local Doubles Champ title with Don as runner-up. W.C. (Charlie) Parks won his shoot-off to claim third place. Class winners were Ed Smith (AAA), Dan Morris (AA), John Clark (A), Scott Herritt (B), Codie McGuane (C), and Jim Reilly (D).

On Friday evening the shooters and guests were treated to a bountiful table of Hors D’oeuvres courtesy of Jim and Hilda Thompson. Thanks JT and Hilda!!

Saturday’s weather was very warm and humid, with little wind. The 12-gauge competition featured three 100s. After a spirited shoot-off, Dave Troiani emerged as local 12-gauge Champion with Clay Tietjen as runner-up, and Dess Ivanov third. Class winners were Craig Parsons (AAA), David Cooley (AA), Scott Herritt (A), Zach Jacot (B), Colin Smingler (C), Codie McGuane (D), and Victor Stirpe (E).

Saturday’s shooting continued with the 20-gauge. The weather was hot and so were the scores. Four shooters posted 100’s. After the shoot-offs, Ed Smith was crowned local champion, with Cameron Baker as runner-up and Dave Troiani as third place. Clay Tietjen’s 100 earned him the A1 champ. Other class winners were Dess Ivanov (AAA), W.C. Parks (AA), Shane Farr (B), Trevor Gleockner (C), and Joan Doyle Paddock (D).

Saturday night featured a full catered Italian style meal courtesy of VRGC. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all!

The heat wave continued Sunday with temperatures in the mid 90’s and high dew points. The shooters persevered though and continued to post fine scores. In the 28-gauge event both Dan Morris and W.C. (Charlie) Parks ran 100s. Dan won the shoot-off to become champ with Charlie as runner-up. Ed Smith had the lone 99 to claim third. Class winners were, Dess Ivanov (AAA), Clay Tietjen (AA), Don Lewandoski (A), Chad Seelbinder (B), Codie McGuane (C), and Victor Stirpe (D).

Sunday afternoon continued with the 410-bore. Dess Ivanov posted the only 100 to become local champ. Don Lewandoski, Dan Morris, and Craig Parsons each had 98s. Don won in the shoot-off to become runner-up with Dan as third and Craig as AA1. Other class

winners were Ed Smith (AAA), Clay Tietjen (A), Kyle Byschke (B), Shane Farr (C), and Cheryl Henderson (D).

Many thanks go out to the VRGC volunteers for their support of this shoot. The administration team led by Mark did an outstanding job of working through the intricacies of the iShoot program. Special thanks to Jim Thompson for putting together a great group of referees. The shooters were very complimentary about the quality of the refereeing. Also thanks to Dan Caryl for assisting in the iShoot processes. We need to thank the NSSA team of Clark Hartness, Nathan Boyd, Jessica Wolfe and others for their support leading up and during the shoot. We couldn't have done it without their strong and timely support.

Victor Rod and Gun Club looks forward to being considered again for this great shooting competition.