

TRAC match – January 3, 2023 – Mark Kauffman, match director

Happy New Year.....to one of the dreariest starting days we could imagine. Considering the rain, and the amount of rain, that we have gotten in the past week, a quick check of the NWS forecast stated.....RAIN.....80% chance of showers.

Lovely....

This is why the email went out to all of you with that warning. BASF has been known to issue a no joy edict when the weather gets wet, sloppy and muddy in order to save the range deck and parking areas from the muddy, rutted muck. I did not want to have you guys traveling distances to do so in vain.

Well, with Wayne not here again (where he is, they are experiencing very WHITE and very COLD conditions), we ended up having not too bad of a day. Probably when the weather gremlins realized he wasn't here, they lightened up on us.

It started out not so good. It rained, at times heavily, on the drive to the range, but was not raining upon arrival. The skies were heavy with dark clouds, the air felt heavy and damp, and the temperature was 48°, with little wind. The temp actually dropped to 46° as the match progressed and felt colder because of the wind and dampness. Humidity varied from high 70% to low 80%. I was pretty well chilled, but at least we were not wet! The wind was light and variable, coming at us from the east, and southeast at between 5 to 9 mph with periods of "calm?"

Let me rephrase that, the wind was frickin' tricky, and it was noticed as such by the 8 shooters who decided to come out anyway. I heard the euphemism, "WTF" numerous times as these practitioners of the pellet questioned what was going on down range. The targets were not in bad shape, paint-wise, prior to starting the match. They are shot to s#!t now! Instead of us playing the wind to score a kill, the wind was playing us, and laughing its' a\$\$ off. Oh, there was a fair amount of laughter coming from the troops as well. Hell, we are just a bunch of over age kids out playing with our BB guns in the wet/muddy/mucky mess that was the range today.

The scores were interesting.....

46/48 – Tony, shooting a different gun; a Theoben GSX600 (never heard of it!)

44/48 – Barry – shooting Daystate Revere

42/48 – Todd – shooting his .22 cal FX Royale

42/48 – Stan – shooting a Daystate Redwolf

41/48 – Jesse – shooting his Daystate Wolverine

41/48 – Mike – shooting his Thomas (re-added his score after listed as 40/48)

39/48 – Van – shooting his Daystate Air Ranger (might as well come and shoot, can't do any roofing work in this weather!)

36/48 – Mark – shooting his TX200 springer and only scoring 75% - sheeeesh!

What made it an interesting turnaround??? The sun came out....brightly, at times. OK, the clouds did part from time to time to allow this. The skies to the north were heavy and dark the entire match. The sun poked through coming out of the south. Made for a weird visual on the range, but, like I said, the weather gremlins realized that Wayne wasn't here and cut us some slack.....LOL

Sorry, Wayne, gotta throw you under the bus when we can. Next week when you are back, we will probably have gale force winds coming from all directions! Then you will hear the b!\$&#ing.....

So, to finish off the first match of the new year, there were no muddy tire tracks, just a lot of muddy foot prints. And yes, my wife gave me grief about it as soon as I walked in the door! Oh, well.....

Respectfully (sorta) submitted,

Mark Kauffman

Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.

PS; we really do have fun on Tuesday's. Much better than playing.....golf!