

TRAC match – October 22, 2024 – Anthony Turchetta, match director



.....Tomas Torquemada

We're back! Yes, we missed a Tuesday match last week because of some big shooting event at BASF, but we did get a chance to shoot on Saturday, at BASF, as a result of canceling the Mormon Lake match, due to rain/snow/cold weather and a last-minute move to the valley.

And.....today was pistol/piston Tuesday, and.....somehow our illustrious club president and today's planned match director was, once again, absent.....Sheesh! If you take a look at the header, you will see that Tony Torquemada was the fill-in match director. What does that tell you?

We did have a wonderful day for shooting. Clear, with some high wispy clouds, that the early morning hot air balloons took advantage of. The temps were "coolish" prior to arrival, but warmed to between 70° and 79° for the match, with an average humidity in the low 20% range. And get this; low to no wind! You read that right. The wind was mild, zero to maybe as much as 5 mph, starting at the NNE and swirling to come at us from the North, then NW, and moving around the WSW towards the end of the match, but hardly more than a breeze.

The Torque-meister announced that the Troyer (difficulty factor) was only a moderate 27-ish rating, according to his notes. And thus, the inquisition began. There was an abundance of ½", ¾", and a few 1" and only two 1 ½" targets on the course, distanced interestingly. After the match, he was heard to utter, "It looked easier on paper than it actually was!" Wow, what ever gave you that idea?

To put it into perspective, the difficulty rating does not distinguish between a PCP gun and a piston gun. Quite a number of course layouts have been known to NOT be piston-friendly. Such is life..... and I find myself, surprisingly, well aware of that fact, especially when the aforementioned Torque-meister is involved.....LOL.

There were the usual grunts and groans heard throughout, a sudden outburst here and there, and then a prolonged dialog coming out of.... no other than....Stanley! I heard the comment made, "Alright, which one of you guys got Stanley all wound up?", followed by an equally demonstrative, "What does it matter?" In everyone's defense, Stanley has been known to wax, sometimes less than eloquently, about particular targets, the fact that he hit them dead-center, and that they did not fall down, so there MUST be something wrong with them. Yep! That's Stanley, but he is a likeable character.....and he WAS shooting a piston gun today!

There were a couple other distractions that took place, as well. All was going according to the game plan when...."**SLAM**".....which sounded like a gun blew up. Turns out Tony Pellegrino was shooting his Diana 34 break barrel piston gun, when apparently, he triggered a shot without closing the barrel all the way, and it **SLAMMED** shut. For the uninitiated, this is a really good way to bend the barrel, and potentially get hurt. No harm was done to the operator, and the gun's barrel did not "appear" to be bent, but.....after the occurrence and a string of misses, and an extended period back on the sight-in range, he retired from finishing the match. He was doing pretty well with it up to that point, as a matter of fact.

Also, young Van Gogh, Van Halen, no....Van Tucker, takes a bunch of good natured ribbing for not owning a piston gun. So, for the first half of the match, Van shot Tony T's TX200 for the first time.....and did well; 16/24. He then finished the second half of the match shooting his puffer gun.....standing! Shot a 16/24 with that. Methinks his eyeballs may be opened a bit wider regarding the possibility of obtaining said piston popper in the future.

Anyway, here are the results of today's festivities.....

....In the pistol category;

28/48 – Wayne Mauler / FX Ranchero pistol

24/48 – Barry Diehl / Brocock Atomic pistol

....In the hybrid piston /standing puffer gun category;

32/48 – Van Tucker / TX200/Daystate Herr Ranger – Great shooting!

....In the piston category;

44/48 – Mark Kauffman / AA TX200 TL1/ Open Piston

38/48 – Jesse Avery / AA Prosport / Hunter Piston, and tied with....

38/48 – Anthony "Torquemada" Turchetta / AA TX200 / Hunter Piston, and tied with....

38/48 – Stanley Mountford / AA TX200 / Hunter Piston

36/48 – Loren Braud / AA TX200 / Hunter Piston

32/48 – Bill Cole / Diana 54 / Hunter Piston

24/48 – Scott Hunt / AA TX200 / Hunter Piston
17/24/DNF – Tony Pellegrino / Diana 34 break-barrel / Hunter Piston –
Hope your gun and scope is okay. We keep our fingers crossed.
Next week is the 5th Tuesday and would normally be Joe’s turn in the
barrel. He has already informed that he has some medical/testing issues to
attend to, so we will cover for him. Hope all is well on the home front there,
as well.

Club members Barbara Pellegrino, Lauren Parsons, and Dave Dagostino
competed in the AAFTA national championships back in Massachusetts
over this past weekend. When we hear the final results, we will let you
guys know. Preliminary reports indicate things went very well.
Nothing more to report, so I will sign off for now. Stay tuned for next weeks
episode of, “How did that frickin’ target duck?”

Respectfully (tongue-in-cheek) submitted,
Mark Kauffman
Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona