

TRAC match – January 21, 2025 – Mark Kauffman, match director

Sunshine.....check

Warm clothing....check

Runny nose....check

Watery eyes.....check

Wind.....check

Cold temps....check

Sanity.....?.....Sanity.....?.....Okay, sanity is hereby declared AWOL

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Announcement – I had more people call, email, or text beforehand stating that they would not be attending today. Why, you ask? They apparently are pre-planning their day and actually looking at the weather forecast.....even Larry, who hates reading about the weather!

Okay, the weather forecast called for sunny skies, cold temps, and winds from 5-15 mph with possible gusts as high as 20 mph.

We had five guys show up this morning. Four of us attempted to shoot, while Wayne stayed in his truck. On hand were Jesse, Bill, Stan, and yours truly. Stan acted as our on-site meteorologist.

Remember last Tuesday? Good! Today was worse.....!

The temps registered in the low 40°, but the windchill made it feel in the 30's.

The wind...heh, heh, heh.....started out around 10 mph, built up to between 20 to 25 mph with gusts that crescendoed at 47 frickin' mph when we circled the wagons and decided to pull the plug.

We set only four lanes. You know, keep it close together, less distance to travel sort of thing. Shoot thru 3 times for a 48-shot match. With 4 of us, and one to a lane, we would finish earlier. Well, we finished earlier, alright. Stan had his Kestrel out and was calling out numbers on a frequent basis. Of course, you couldn't hear him because of the wind.

The wind was coming at us from the north to NNW and had us doing vertical drive-by's with our scope reticles. The targets were set to be commensurate with the conditions. Hell, we could have had 2" killzones at 10 yards and it would not have helped.

Let me put it another way.....

It knocked over one of the porta-potties! It was staked into the ground. It blew our buckets over. I actually hit one of the targets, watched it go part-way down, and the wind blew so hard it reset! Never saw that happen before, but now I can say that I have. Never thought that was even possible. It is!

The scores.....

Atta-boy – Jesse Avery / BRK Ghost / Hunter PCP

Atta-boy – Bill Cole / Daystate Revere / Hunter PCP

Atta-boy – Stan Mountford / Daystate Revere / Hunter PCP

Atta-boy – Mark Kauffman / TM1000 / Open PCP

Oh, we all had about the same amount of misses, but more hits than misses, and with the continuously increasing winds, the only thing we could think of is WTF?

So, with frozen fingers, frostbit noses, miserable attitudes, and with gratitude in our hearts for having the sense to call it quits, we collected the targets and left!

We did not get charged by BASF for “canceling”. Hell, they had already closed the main range. The guys shooting fees were returned to them, so we were not out any funds.

We did get in touch with Tony Turchetta and met him at the benchrest range around 11:00 (after warming up with breakfast and coffee). There were guys at the benchrest range trying to wait out the wind so they could shoot. They never even set up. Target stands kept breaking. They looked at Tony when he told them what we were planning for the afternoon. “You are going to shoot WHAT? Airguns in this wind?”

This non-match report had to be written or you guys would never believe us. It was a real BEE-ITCH today.

Humbly submitted,

Mark Kauffman (I am finally warming up)

Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona / Registered Insane Asylum

Thought you guys might like a little dose of humor at our expense! MK