

TRAC match – April 25, 2023 – Wayne Mauler, match director

Ahhhh, back to comfortable tee shirt weather. Temps today ranged from 73° up to 81° under clear blue skies. The NWS forecast 5 to 15 mph winds with possible gusts to 25mph, but we did not see that. Instead, there was a lone hot air balloon seemingly hanging in the sky. The winds that we had were light and variable, initially coming out of the east, but as we started the match, they shifted and were alternately coming from the SE and the SW; just lazily shifting from one direction to the other and back again. When we started the match, the wind intensity was only about 5 – 7 mph, died down to almost calm conditions, then built back up to 6 – 9 mph by the end of the match. It felt like it had increased more than that, but the weather history (out of Deer Valley Airport / NWS) did not indicate that.

We also started at 8:30 this morning with 8 shooters, one was a new guy. Not sure if the earlier time was a good idea, or just whether everyone was busy, or that the road conditions/construction hindered shooters from attending. We didn't have any detractors when this was announced, but we will keep our ears open to any scuttlebutt. Hey, we are flexible and willing to try different things to accommodate the membership. We did finish before 11:00, thus were earlier in line for burgers, or, in Tony's case, to open his shop earlier.

The one new shooter is actually a long time silhouette shooter who would come by and intently watch us, as he has in the past several years, and finally participated today. That would be Bill, who has been a BASF volunteer for the past 18 years. He shot with me today.

Today, being pistol / piston day, we had an even split on shooters; 4 shooting pistol and 4 shooting piston, albeit one of them was the new guy shooting a pcp gun.

47/48 – Two bagger Mike shot his FX Ranchero for top honors in the pistol category.

37/48 – Barry is back and shot his Brocock Atomic

30/48 – Wayne also shot his Brocock Atomic

28/48 – Joe was the only hybrid shooter, shooting his HW97 springer until just about the halfway point when he could not get it to cock anymore. So, he put it away and shared Wayne’s pistol the second half.

Moving over to the piston side of the equation, we had a tied score at the top.

47/48 – Mark and Jake, both shooting TX200, springers, with the usual abuse from Mike.

42/48 – Tony, who continues to shoot his TX200 well.

26/48 – Bill was shooting his Daystate Huntsman Revere for the first time in Airgun competition. He has shoot big bore and rimfire rifle silhouette and kept referencing that. He DID learn that follow through is even more important shooting Airgun. It was a big eye-opener for him. I have run into him constantly over the past several years on this range. He will appear out of nowhere, watch intently, then disappear without a trace. He has been encouraged to try it, and now has done just that. Hopefully, he enjoyed himself. He was noncommittal when I asked him, so hopefully we will see him again.

As for the course, we had our usual 6 lanes / two targets per / yada, yada, yada..... We only had one glitch while shooting. We had a recently rebuilt beaver target that would not go down. Apparently, with enough hits, it would work itself back from the “stuck” position until it would drop, but when reset, it was stuck again. Needless to say, this stubborn beaver would refuse to go down, so Wayne decided to award hits to everyone. It was obvious from the impacts on the paddle that it was being hit, but it just needs an “attitude adjustment”.

That being said, next week we are back to a regular Airgun format. With the weather continuing to get nicer, the participation should increase. More fun times are forthcoming.

Respectfully (tongue in cheek) submitted

Mark Kauffman

Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.