

TRAC match – October 17, 2023 – Mark Kauffman, match director,

Yes, you read that correctly. Wayne is still away taking care of family and I am still here to torment the daylighters out of whoever shows up to shoot. But, HEY! It could be worse. You could be stuck with Larry! He is not here and cannot defend himself, but more on that later.....

Today was an odd day. The hot air balloons were hanging in the air all over the area, indicating calm winds.....which we had during sight in. Almost on cue, as soon as we started shooting, the winds picked up. NWS was calling for NE winds at 5 – 10 mph. That saddle divot on the mountainside to our north is where the winds come up and over, and then at us, usually swirling. What we experienced were winds from the north to NW coming at us, and dancing back and forth, and varying in intensity. Absolutely lovely conditions for a pellet to shift point of impact, and was so indicated by most of the early misses as shown on the scorecards, as well.

The skies were clear, albeit with some distant haze. Nothing unusual. The temps ranged from 81° up to 90° and humidity in the low 20% range. The higher the temps, the lower the humidity. The sun being as bright as it was, did add a lot of glare, too. After the first third of the match, the wind diminished somewhat, but did not go away, and then played that “which-point-of-the-compass-direction-do-I-want-to-come-from-next” game. It floated all around us, and was easy to lose track of, until you missed and THEN looked at your windicator. Yes, I did hear some colorful language.

It got comical at the end of the match. Most of the guys shooting hunter PCP use an app on their cellphones to determine hold over, based on a number of different criteria. When the wind is blowing, they check their phones. Well, Scott was on the line, the wind kept shifting, he kept referring to his phone, the wind would change, he would refer to his phone, etc, etc, etc. At one point I heard the comment come floating in on the breeze.....”What is he doing, upgrading his facebook page?”at which point I just burst out laughing! This is just one of the reasons that we call this our weekly mental health therapy session. It fits!

While announcing scores afterwards, I overheard Stan complaining about missing shots due to perceived, or anticipated diarrhea? I cannot be certain, but anyway, here are the scores;

46/48 – Tony Turchetta, shooting his Steyr LG110

45/48 – Jesse Avery, shooting his Daystate Redwolf

43 /48 – Pat Hayes (new guy) shooting his Daystate Revere and tied with....

43/48 – Stanley Mountford, shooting his FX Dreamline

41/48 – Bill Cole, shooting his Daystate Revere

40/48 – Mark Kauffman, shooting his TX200 springer

38/48 – Joe Pruzinsky, shooting his vintage Daystate Huntsman

37/48 – Scott Hunt, setting up and shooting his grandsons Benji Marauder

33/48 – Loren Braud, shooting his Daystate Revere, and tied with....

33/48 – Ron Swanson, shooting his FX Mk II

We had two observers today, one of which was Ron's son. No idea who the other guy was, but they seemed duly impressed with what accuracy an air rifle is capable of. Maybe some future converts, who knows?

Okay, in other news.....

Mike is still in the hospital. Talked to him on the phone after the match and he is not too happy about still being there. He appreciates the fact that we tried to get him on speakerphone at the beginning of the shooters meeting, prior to the match. It appears as if he was "taking a nap". (Sounds good to me at this point of the day, too!) Regardless, he will keep me posted, but appreciates the concern.

Larry, Fresh from finishing shooting at nationals, back in Ohio (where it was cold, windy, and rainy.....sound familiar?) reports that he was elected to the AAFTA Board of Governors. Congrats to Larry.

This weekend is the Founders Cup match and last match of the season for Mormon Lake. Larry has Barry and Van running that match for those who will attend. Please give them all the assistance they need to do their jobs.

Next Tuesday is the 4th Tuesday, thus it is piston / pistol Tuesday. Bring out your springers and/or pistols.

The following Tuesday is October 31 – which is Halloween. We are going to have a Halloween shoot, which will involve being tricked or treated. It will be field target based, with some skill involved, and with prizes. Nothing more will be divulged until you get here. Bonus points for those who attend and shoot while in costume. Nuff said.....

November 16, 17, 18 is the AZ state championships at BASF. So far we have.....ZERO.....number of entries. Yes, we have the reputation of being the local chapter of the International Procrastinators Club, but seriously? I will attach the information.....again.....to this email. Please print, fill out the registration and either send it to Mary Ann or bring it to the Tuesday matches, where it will get turned over to Larry, the state championship match director.

I think that is enough to keep you guys occupied for a bit, so I will sign off, with every intention of taking a nap myself.....

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kauffman

Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.