

TRAC match – March 18, 2025 – Mark Kauffman, match director

What a lovely day! The sun was out, bright and cheerful. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. The temps were refreshing at between 55° and 61° with humidity hovering in the high 20% range. It was an absolutely wonderful day for flying a kite! A small kite at that, because anything bigger would have picked you up and landed you somewhere over near Albuquerque!

Good LORD, was it windy! The NWS forecast winds of 10 – 15 mph with possible gusts of 25 mph. Well, they were in the right ballpark. Out of the WNW and west directions we got mostly 16 to 18 mph winds and it gusted during the entire match, it seemed, upwards of 26 mph. Thankfully, it was not cold or wet. That would have been a real bee-itch! What made it bearable was the fact that the direction stayed almost constant and as a result, thru trial and lots of error, we learned how much to hold off to hit the target....face. Some of us actually knocked down targets after a fashion, as well.

To give you an idea, I learned that one mildot holdoff at 11 yards with a ½" killzone was needed to drop a target that close. Also 5 ½ mildots holdoff at 55 yards was needed to do the same on a 2" killzone. Who knew???

And here is where it gets even better..... On the Airgun Nation forum, I read that this past weekend, at Diablo Airgun club in CA, Jim Poh erected something that has been labeled "Jim's Folly". He put a ½" target at 55 yards as part of the course. NO ONE dropped that target, but he did get a "few" comments on his match report post about it. Hmm.....Okay, lets do the same thing, but only as a bonus target for our match. We positioned it next to a 2" target at that distance and launched just one shot, actually twice because we shot our usual course twice. Lots of faceplate hits, a few splits (from examining the target afterwards) and one miraculous knock-down! The usual banter was floating back and forth along the line until there was this uproar, followed by Barry Diehl about to do handsprings! He had knocked down his 2 close shots, figured the hold off and down his 2 long shots, then launched his bonus shot and the target dropped! You think he might have been a bit ecstatic?? Turns out he was high score for the match, too.

43+1=44 / 48 – Barry Diehl / Daystate Revere / Hunter PCP, and probably not fit to live with for the next month or so. GREAT SHOT!

40 / 48 – Wayne Mauler / Thomas / Hunter PCP, and tied with...
40 / 48 – Van Tucker / Daystate Air Ranger / Hunter PCP
37 / 48 – Bill Cole / Daystate Revere / Hunter PCP, and tied with...
37 / 48 – Anthony Turchetta / RAW TH1000 / Hunter PCP
36 / 48 – Jesse Avery / BRK Ghost / Hunter PCP
33 / 48 – Erick Ajax / Daystate RWGP (?) / Hunter PCP
32 / 48 – Mark Kauffman / AA TX200 / Open Piston
30 / 48 – Sheldon Ajax / Sharing son's gun and shooting for the first time /
Hunter PCP
23 / 48 – Loren Braud / AA TX200 / Hunter Piston

Not quite sure where the rest of our merry band of overaged kids with BB guns were today. Maybe too much green beer from celebrating St. Patrick's Day yesterday, who knows. Regardless, when the notice went out that today's match would be a good chance to shoot piston, and the course was set up to be somewhat "springer friendly", little did I know it would be like this. However, the usual excuses as to why no one was shooting springers today were uttered by all, except two of us stalwarts, and we went on to do battle with the steel critters, regardless.....so there!

Next Tuesday, we will not have a Tuesday TRAC match due to the BASF Outdoor EXPO, so we get another day off. The next TRAC match will be the first Tuesday in April.

Tony Turchetta did have 6 shooters signed and set up for his Benchrest match this afternoon. Considering what we went thru this morning, that should be a real treat! Your enduring scribe did not participate in that. Instead, I came home and took a nap! At my age, that is known as "happy hour". Maybe there is a chance of a follow-up email to report on that. Hopefully when talking to Tony about it, it will not precede with copious amounts of profanity.....

Benchrest Report:

It is my pleasure to report on the Arizona Airgunners first inaugural benchrest match shot on the Ben Avery bench rest venue. Anthony Turchetta match Director.

We had six weary shooters wander over from after a wind blown chilly field target match. If these Comancheros had any sense, we would've shook hands, sung Kumbaya, and went home, but we didn't.

We had all 65 lanes to ourselves, so around noon we started setting flags (which blew

over several times) and target backers. We proceeded to have sight in practice for about 45 minutes.

After a brief shooter meeting in which we covered range safety, match procedures and scoring. Mr. Tucker suggested we all throw in a buck for winner take all, which was approved.

We got a little early start before 1 and the wind blew and blew and blew. If I had to guess, I would say about 7-15 mph with very few lulls. You had to be a good wind reader just to keep them in the black. Should I say there were multiple cards with 2 and sometimes 3 shots in the same square! The match ran extremely efficient and we had all 3 cards shot by 2:00 pm Wayne stuck around to watch the misery and help with the scoring, which all pitched in and awards given and we wrapped up by 2:30

It was challenging and fun. I hope to see more shooters come out to the next match, we have plenty of room. So without further ado here are the scores.

Insert drum roll.....

The grand prize winner of \$6.00 was Anthony Turchetta

Anthony T	207	223	241	- 671/10x	Raw HM1000 22/22 gr
Barry D	169	202	219	- 590/5x	Uragan 22/18gr
Bill C	185	145	211	- 541/6x	Red wolf
Van T	133	180	208	- 521/3x	FX royal 22/18 gr
Loran B	?	?	155.	- 461/2x	Daystate 177/?
Ron S	DNF				

With nothing further to report, and imbibement at hand while writing this report, I shall sign off. Get those springers out and practice, practice, practice. Next month's match will be the Spring Fling in the Desert. We will be remembering and honoring Mike Smith, who finally got his first springer, but did not get a chance to shoot it. This shoot will be dedicated to his memory. He will have left us a year ago, but has not been forgotten.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Kauffman
Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.