

TRAC match – January 10, 2023 – Wayne Mauler, match director

Yes! You read that correctly; Wayne is back....and he didn't bring winter weather with him! Amazing.....as was today's match conditions. It was 48°, but with the dampness in the air, it felt colder. The breeze indicators showed wind coming out of the west, primarily, at between 0 and 3 mph, with brief "puffs" to 5 mph. The sky was completely blanked out with high and total cloud coverage. Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the match, we noticed the targets getting brighter, and behold! The sun came out, as the cloud cover almost magically melted away, revealing a beautiful shade of blue sky. The air warmed to the low 60's, and the warmth of the sun felt good. Much better than the -40° with wind chill from where Wayne spent his holiday "vacation" .....LOL

We had 12 shooters today and with that, some respectable scores. You would think that a score of 43 out of 48 would be pretty darn good. I mean that is 89.5% efficiency, and has won matches in the past. Today?.....NOPE! That was dead last place. Again.....Amazing!

Top dog today was.....(insert drum roll here).....

48/48 – Tony, aka "Turk", shooting an FX Crown Bee.....whatever that is. It looked to be yellow and black laminated stock.....and was purdy looking.....for a puffer gun.

47/48 – Nathan, aka "Doc", drove down from Flagstaff to avoid winter and shot his Thomas.....and was tied with.....

47/48 – Mike, aka "double bagger", who shot his Thomas.

46/48 – Barbara, aka.....we haven't given her a nickname yet. We're working on it. Applications are being accepted – shooting her Daystate Huntsman, and tied with.....

46/48 – Tony, the lucky stiff who happens to be married to Barbara, and shooting his Crown, and tied with.....

46/48 – Stan, who was using a new side wheel on the scope attached to his Daystate Redwolf.

45/48 – Barry, shooting his Daystate Revere, and overheard singing, “I’m bringing home a ba-by bumble-bee....”, and tied with.....

45/48 – Joe, who shot his vintage Daystate Huntsman, and who claims that I am a PITA! I resemble that remark!

44/48 – Mark, who shot his TX200 springer, and was tied with.....

44/48 – Wayne, who shot his Alpha Wolf, and loving the warmth, and was tied with....

44/48 – Jesse, who shot his Daystate Wolverine, followed by.....

43/48 – Van, shooting his Daystate Air Ranger, and startled us during the announcement of scores by screaming....”DEAD-ASSED LAST!”

Does it sound like we are having a good time? You-betcha!

But we did have a bit of controversy today. Let me set the scenario.....

We have targets that have an aluminum tab, mounted on the paddle. These tabs are meant to be a sacrificial.....”anode”..... that would take the brunt of all the high velocity puffer gun pellet hits. When hammered to death, these tabs then get replaced. Well, on this one particular target, the tab has not been replaced.....yet. So, the steel paddle has a drilled 3/16” (.1875) hole where the steel rivet would pass through to secure the tab to the paddle. This one was missing. Now a .177 pellet WILL pass thru this hole.....barely. There is .0100” clearance, or .0050”/per side clearance each side of a pellet. That is 5 thousandths of an inch. See where I am going with this? No less than 6 out of the 12 shooters SWORE that their pellet passed through this hole.....CLEANLY..... without touching the paddle, and thus failed to drop the target. Also note that only one person cleaned the course. There is a term to describe this phenomenon.....

**.....MIERDA del TORO!!!**

I don’t know if these misses were scored as hits or not.....don’t care.....we had fun and the laughter that ensued afterwards will keep us all young and healthy. Such is the power of humor.

So, until next week.....

Not so respectfully submitted,

Mark Kauffman

Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.