

AAFTA News



American Airgun Field Target Association

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From the Editor:

Hey all, we made it through the first issue of the new AAFTA News! Thanks for all the compliments and words of encouragement: I'm happy to be doing the News, and happy that folks are generally pleased with the results. The field target season is starting up around the country, so this will be the last 'off-season' issue for a while. Beginning next month, we'll start seeing a lot more match reports and we'll go to an issue each month until November. As for this issue, special thanks go out to Rodney Boyce for his piece on accuracy, and to MAFTA's resident 'Mr. Gadget', Mark Catlin for his piece on wind meters. I look forward to getting additional articles from both of these guys - Rodney's never afraid to voice his opinion, and I know Mark has a lot more gadgets. I've got articles on the way from Steve Schulz and Brad Troyer, and I'd love to get some from the rest of you. Please note that with the new printing format, the number of pages must be a multiple of four. Because of this limitation, please don't be offended if you submit something and it doesn't make it in the very next issue - I will use it as soon as I can, and I'll let you know if I can't or won't publish an article. Enjoy the issue.

Jay

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AAFTA Member Clubs

AA:	Airgunning Atlanta; Atlanta GA Ken Hughes 770-445-0789 mbmedic@techie.com http://www.gajobs.com/airguns	NIAG:	Northern Illinois Air Gunners; Chicago, IL Greg Rozak 773-646-1807
AOA:	Airgunners of Arizona; Mesa, AZ Robert Buchanan 602-461-1113	NMAC:	Northern Mississippi Airgun Club; Hernando, MS Stylee Edwards 662-429-5794
BAC:	Bayou Airgun Club; Baton Rouge, LA Jack Kirkendoll 225-755-1715	NOCASA:	Northern California Airgun Shooters Association San Francisco, CA Mike McKeown 707-253-8029
BAGA:	Badgerland Air Gun Association; Bristol, WI Alex Modic 262-895-7251 modic@execpc.com http://www.bagaclub.com	OAFTSA:	Ohio Airgun & Field Target Shooters Association; Vienna OH Rick Smelko 330-637-9442
BEC:	Bulls Eye Club; St. Martinsville, LA Roland Robichaux 318-394-3611	OASA:	Ohio Airgun Shooters Association; Mansfield, OH Bruce Perathaner 419-756-7813
BGAC:	Bluegrass Airgun Club; Lexington, KY Steve Cox 859-263-8378 coxclark@email.msn.com	PA:	Phoenix Airgunners; Phoenix, AZ Bobby L. Cocorran 5325 W. Pierson Phoenix, AZ 95031
CAC:	Carolina Airgun Club; Winston-Salem, NC Jeff Miller 336-764-4734	PEL:	Pelican Airgunners; Dade City, FL Don Vanderwerker 813-621-1509
CASA:	California Airgun Shooters Association; Los Angeles, CA Dave Slade 714-376-6981 airgunwerk@aol.com	PFTAC:	Pennsylvania Field Target & Airgun Club Lt. Joseph J. Koslop 717-454-7456
DAFTC:	Dominion Airgun Field Target Club; Harrisonburg, VA Claude Phillipy 540-434-2416 cphillipy@planetcomm.net	PMRPC:	Port Malabar Rifle & Pistol Club; Port Malabar, FL Steve Minner 407-728-7850 stevenmr@earthlink.net
DIFTA:	Damascus Maryland Chapter of the Isaak Walton League of America Phil Dean 301-831-9325	PSC:	Pearland Sportsman's Club; Pearland, TX Bob Zimmerman 713-436-1794
DJMC:	Delran Junior Marksman; Delran, NJ John Quiter 732-269-3303	RCA:	River City Airgunners; Spokane, WA Tom Price 509-535-7993
EFTCC:	Eastern Field Target Competitor's Club Wappingers Falls, NY Ray Apelles 845-896-9792 http://www.bestweb.net/~ateamray	SSG:	Single Shot Group; South Lyon, MI Bill Erwin 313-437-3132
GIFT:	Grand Isle Field Target; Grand Isle, VT Brian S. Johnson 802-372-4173 GrandIsleFT@hotmail.com	TBA:	Tampa Bay Airgunners; Odessa, FL Cliff Smith 813-884-0507
IRA:	Indian River Airgunners; Sebastian, FL Henry Hartsfield 561-778-8106 MrWonderful69@aol.com Rodney Boyce 561-655-5427 rrrboyce@webtv.net	TRRFTC:	Tacoma Rifle & Revolver Field Target Club Tacoma, WA Kyle McCormack 253-512-0618
MAFTA:	Minnesota Airgun Field Target Association Minneapolis/Saint Paul, MN Jay Olson-Goude 651-699-3048 jolson-goude@msn.com http://mafta.homestead.com	TVA:	Tennessee Valley Airgunners; Huntsville, AL Brad Troyer 256-882-2811
MCFG:	Marion County Fish & Game Association Indianapolis, IN Anthony Storey 317-925-5544	WPAA:	Western Pennsylvania Airgun Association; Homer City, PA Mark Troxell 412-256-3163
MSTS:	Mid South Tri-State Airgunners Association Memphis, TN Tom Iterly 901-872-0751	WSC:	Westfield Sportsman's Club; Westfield, MA Mark Lisowski 413-562-8997
MSFTA:	Mountain State Field Target Association St. Albans, WV Rick McAllister 304-727-2752 rick.mcallister@worldnet.att	WCSC:	Williamson Conservation & Sporting Club; Williamson, NY Bill Chappell 315-589-2270
		WWCCA:	Western Wayne County Conservation Association Rick Stoutenberg 734-261-1683 http://www.wcca.com/clubs/air_gun.htm
		Associate Member Clubs	
		WFTA:	Waterloo Field Target Association Waterloo, Ontario, Canada Fred Truscott 519-985-0042
		CMPT:	Club Mexico de Tiro Pneumatico S. de R. L. Y C. V.; Mexico Hector J. Medina G. Calz. Legaria 779-302 Col. Irrigacion Mexico D. F. 11500 Mexico 01152.55.5395.0525

2002 Match Schedule

January	February	March	April	May	June
12:AOA 27:EFTCC	2-3: Superbowl match 9: AOA	9: AOA, DIFTA, NMAC 23: DAFTC, IRA, NMAC	6: DIFTA 6-7:Cajun Spring Nationals 7: EFTCC 13: AOA 20: MAFTA 21: WWCCA 27: NMAC 28: DAFTC	4-5: NMAC TriAIRathon 11: AOA 18: BAGA, DIFTA, MAFTA 19: WWCCA 26: DAFTC	2: EFTCC 8-9: TVA Tennes- see Valley Open 15: BAGA, DIFTA, MAFTA 15-16: AOA 22: NMAC 22-23: Shenan- doah Valley Championship 23: WWCCA 30: BAGA
July	August	September	October	November	December
13: NMAC 14: DAFTC 20: BAGA, DIFTA, MAFTA 20-21: AOA 21: WWCCA 27: NMAC	4:EFTCC 10: NMAC 17: BAGA, MAFTA 17-18: AOA 18: DAFTC, WWCCA 24: NMAC	14: NMAC 14-15: BAGA Badgerland Re- gionals, DAFTC VA State Champi- onship 15: WWCCA MI State Champion- ship 21: DIFTA, MAFTA MN State Championships 21-22: AOA 29: EFTCC	4-6: AAFTA Na- tional Champion- ship 5: DIFTA 12: AOA, MAFTA 19: BAGA 20: DAFTC, WWCCA	2: NMAC 9: AOA, DIFTA MD State Champi- onship 16: NMAC 17: EFTCC NY State Champion- ship	14: AOA

Where to find it

FT Air Rifles

Airgun Express(Mako/HW, TX200)	800-896-4867
Airguns Alaska	907-522-5900
Airguns of Arizona (Daystate, Beeman)	602-461-1113
Beeman Precision Airguns (Mako/HW77 & 97)	800-227-2744
Benson Airgun Options	888-952-1231
Burroughs International (Career)	310-457-5932
Ken's Airsports (TX200)	419-837-6459
Mac-1 (Steyr)	310-327-3581
Storey "Custom Shop"	317-925-5544
Wade Sutherland	622-429-4663
W.W. Mann International	317-241-6011

Airgun Accessories

Precision Airgun Ltd.	562-430-9138
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Ballistic Programs

The "A" Team	845-896-9792
Air Rifle Ballistics	813-634-6507
Precision Airgun Ltd.	562-430-9183

Chronograph

Airgun Express	800-896-4867
Storey "Custom Shop"	317-925-5544

Cleaning Kits

Airgun Express	800-896-4867
Airguns of Arizona	602-461-1113
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744

Field Targets

Precision Airgun Ltd.	562-430-9183
Rick Stoutenberg	313-261-1683
Ron Juneau's Cajun Targets juneaur@bellsouth.net	225-261-7435

Gas Rams

Dave Slade's Airgunwerks	714-376-6981
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Lubricants

Airgun Express	800-896-4867
Airguns of Arizona	602-461-1113
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744

Pellets

Airgun Express (Crosman Premier)	900-896-4867
Airguns of Arizona	602-461-1113
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744
Mac-1	310-327-3581

Publications

AAFTA News	662-429-4663
and AAFTA "Club & Shooters Handbook	
Airgun Digest 3rd Edition	800-247-4876
Airgun Letter	410-730-5496
Airgun Revue	410-730-5496
U.S. Airgun Magazine	800-247-4876

Regulators

The "A" Team	845-896-9792
	and/or
Joe Korick	914-277-4309
	360-576-8643

Repair & Tuning

Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744
Bob Bliss Tuning	602-834-7290
Dave Slade's Airgunwerks	714-376-6981
Ken's Airsports	419-837-6459
Mac-1 (Crosman/Benjamin/Sheridan)	310-327-3581

Scopes

Airgun Express	800-896-4867
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744

Scope Knobs and/or Levels

The "A" Team	845-896-9792
	and/or
	914-277-4309
Airgun Express	800-896-4867
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744
Ken's Airsports	419-837-6459
Precision Airgun Ltd.	562-430-9183

Scope Mounts

Airgun Express	800-896-4867
Airguns of Arizona	602-461-1113
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744
Mac-1 (Droopers)	310-327-3581
Precision Airgun Ltd. (BKL)	562-430-9183

Silhouette Targets

Precision Airgun Ltd.	562-430-9183
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Stocks

Wade Sutherland	662-429-4663
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Airgun Videos

Pellethead	800-213-2088
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2002 TVA “Good Ole’ Boy” Field Target Match

Now that the holidays are behind us, the anxieties related to that time have been replaced by new ones. There’s an uneasy excited feeling stirring within me. A strong emotion that amplifies whenever I pass near my gun safe:

Let’s get ready to boogie again!

Customarily, this is the time of year when the various field target clubs post their respective match schedules. If you’re like me, the first thing you look for are the dates for their regional/championship matches. For it is they that provide a years worth of bragging rights for the victor. Regional/championship matches also place the most demands on our time and financial resources. Though many of us would love to attend every “trophy” match out there, reality dictates otherwise.

With these considerations firmly in mind, I now give notice that:

The 2nd annual TVA Good Ole’ Boy Match Wants You!!

Come June 8 & 9 co-directors Roz Sumpter and Brad Troyer would love to play host to you at our shootin’ grounds in Pulaski, Tennessee. Join us in the Good Ole’ southern tradition of fine eatin’, good fellowship, challenging shootin’ and the swapping of a few bodacious lies!

For those of you who honored us with your presence last year, come on back and bring a friend. For prospective newcomers, we hope to influence you so that you’ll make the TVA Good Ole’ Boy an annual installment to your itinerary.

So, start practicing both your shootin’ and your lying and may we all have a roarin’ good time!

Roz Sumpter

See following page for entry form and official match information.

2002 Tennessee Valley "Good Ole' Boy" Field Target Match

- Date: June 8th & 9th, 2002.
 Site: Pulaski, Tennessee.
 Directions: A map and additional match information will be sent to all registrants.
 Practice Range: Open June 7th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and 8 am on match days.
 Course of Fire: 100 shots on 2 courses, one match Saturday afternoon, one match Sunday morning.
 Classes: Open, PCP and Piston
 Teams: Three member teams picked randomly from participants.
 Awards: Overall Champion, 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each class, High Lady, High Junior, 1st place team.
 Ties Breaker: All ties will be decided by shoot off.
 Entry Fees: \$40 per shooter, \$50 after entry deadline. Entries limited to the first 54 shooters.
 Entry Deadline: June 1, 2001.
 Rules: AAFTA rules with the following exceptions. No bodily support will be allowed (i.e., no jackets, straps, harnesses) in PCP and Piston classes, use of support places the shooter in Open class. Each shooter may use the equipment check area once during each match with no more than 5 shots allowed. More details will be included in the response package.
 Safety: AAFTA safety rules will be enforced, airguns must chronograph at 20 ft. lb. or less.
 Meals: Lunch will be provided on Sunday only, competitors will be responsible for lunch on Saturday.
 Lodging: Richland Inn, Pulaski TN., PH: 800-833-9472. Ask for the "Good Ole' Boy Airgun Match". Dry camping is available, water and electricity are not available.
 Air Tanks: Air tanks will be supplied at the match for a cost of \$15 for the weekend. Please indicate on the registration form if you need a tank and include the tank cost with the registration.
 Air Travel: Nashville Regional Airport (85 miles from match) or Huntsville Regional Airport (40 miles from match)

For more information or questions, contact Roz Sumpter at 931-424-5314.

Registration form for the 2002 Tennessee Valley Good Ole Boy FT Match (please print clearly and include all information)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Air Rifle: _____ Class: Open PCP Piston (circle one)
 Scope: _____ Pellet: _____
 Individual Registration \$40 (\$50 after June 1, 01) \$ _____
 Air Tank Rental - \$ 15 for the weekend \$ _____
 Non-Competitor Meals, \$6 per meal, Num of meals: _____ \$ _____
 Total enclosed: \$ _____
 Make Check Payable and send entries to: **Roz Sumpter**
10231 Melanie Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35803

Wind Meters

By Mark Catlin

Moses probably had a similar look as he turned into the wind blowing across the Red Sea, and raised his staff to part the waters. I was standing in the parking lot of the local Pizza Hut facing into the wind, hair blowing, jacket unzipped and flapping, with arms up-raised. Kestrel 2000 reading 8.7 mph, Kestrel 4000 -- 8.7 mph. Temperature 25.3 degrees Fahrenheit. Life is good. Unfortunately, a chorus of "Come on Dad" and "Dad, I'm hungry" interrupt my fun with the latest airgun toys. I turn and see that my wife is standing a discrete distant away, hoping that she won't be associated with this lunatic. I figure that at 50 I am not only entitled to AARP discounts but to a few eccentricities -- like having 6 year old triplets. I, not entirely reluctantly, sheathed the instruments and went inside -- I could compare the inside and outside humidity and cross check the instrument temperature readings. So while the kids debated the merits of pineapple with Canadian bacon versus sausage and pepperoni I diddled with the Kestrel 4000. I love it.

Should you enhance your armamentarium with a wind meter? Should this be your requested next year stocking stuffer? Yes. But you'd better leave your wife a note. While I feel like an absolute genius getting her new non-stick Calphalon cookware she can't think of anything more inspiring than a new sweater. You'll need the note. I suppose, considering I already have 2 Kestrel 2000s (one non functioning) and a Brunton Sherpa, it is understandable that she wouldn't grasp the need for a Kestrel 4000.

But this is the one to get. It does everything but pick out the clothes to wear tomorrow. It measures the following: wind velocity, humidity, barometric pressure, altitude, density altitude (for flying your Cessna to the next match), wet bulb temperature, dew point, heat index and wind chill. It runs on two AAA batteries and the units can be changed to suit any meteorologic bend. Do you want your wind speed in mph, ft/minute, Bft (Beaufort scale), meters/second, kilometers/hour or knots? It has a screen that will measure the minimum and maximum wind velocity for whatever time interval you choose. It graphs the variance of all these parameters over time and has 3 nifty summary screens that can be programmed to show three of your favorite weather facts at once. This is quite nice because you can, on 2 screens, show all the information you need for doing your ballistic tables. On screen 1, I have the wind velocity, temperature and relative humidity. On screen 2 I have the wind, barometric pressure and altitude. These all plug nicely into Lame Rabbit's nifty ballistic program. But Jim would you please change the default wind velocity to zero and let us save the default altitude, wind and barometric pressure so we don't have to change it every time we start the program?

With this clever instrument you can plug in all those weather facts that the good compulsive airgunner should know when doing their ballistic calculations. Do they make any difference? Probably not that much, but I know that any group of anal shooters that will weigh their pellets to the hundredth of a grain, inspect them individually under a microscope and carefully size them will need to know these crucial weather facts anytime they look through that 36X Nightforce! I do.

Seriously, if you shoot 12 foot pounds and weren't born in county Sussex England you can benefit from a wind meter. Jim's program has a great feature that allows you to generate a wind table. So, in addition to my click setting table, taped to my stock is a wind table. This has distances in 5 yard increments in one column and strung across the page is the wind deflection at 2 mph increments. Of course I have converted all the distances to MOA so I can use all the MOA dots that I paid so much for in my Premier Reticle Leupold 20-50X scope.

Do they work? Damn right they do. Jay Olson-Goude and I had lots of fun at our last club shoot in October using the wind tables. It was 40 degrees and the wind, even in the shelter of a hill and trees, was between 4 and 7 mph. He was using my Steyr LG1000 and I was using an Anschutz 2025, both guns shooting Crosman lights at 815 fps.

We used the Kestrel 2000 at each lane to measure the wind. We consulted the chart to get the wind hold-over at the target distance, held off the required number of dots and giggled when the targets fell. Damn that was fun. There is something satisfying about having the faith to aim more than one complete kill-zone distance to the left, pull the trigger, and watch that target go down.

Perhaps, this is one of the reasons the Brits like their 12 foot pound limit. It takes skill (or technology) to shoot these guns in the wind. Those of us that shot in England at the World's last year found this out. My problem over there wasn't the wind -- it was the difficulty of the kneeling and standing shots. Using my Kestrel and wind tables I actually did better than the Brits I was with on the tough wind shots. Even a .5 mph wind becomes a significant factor when you get out 30 yards or more.

I would like to make a plug for instituting an "International" class in all of our major American shoots. This would be for the 12 ft pound guns shot by people not using straps. This would give us 12 foot pounders some incentive to practice with these guns. If we can learn to hit the small kill-zones with these guns we will be more competitive across the pond. Try it. You will realize there is a whole new art to this game.

How do the Kestrels compare to the Brunton Sherpa? They are better. Don't waste your money on a Brunton. The wind impeller is too small and it doesn't accurately measure winds under 2 mph. Do you need a \$400 Kestrel 4000? Probably not. The Kestrel 2000 measures wind and temperature only but does that as accurately as the 4000 with a \$250 savings. You can get your local altitude, barometric pressure and humidity elsewhere (Internet). However, nothing quite beats having the immediate, accurate measurements provided by the Kestrel 4000.

Any drawbacks? Well all of these instruments that measure barometric pressure and altitude seem to drift. The altitude is measured indirectly by using the barometric pressure. You have to reset the thing to a known altitude every time out. My known altitude here in Arden Hills, MN is 1007 feet (by GPS) but without recalibration it will vary from 850 to about 1150 feet. This somewhat defeats the whole convenience of these measurements. So the altimeter has limited use. The barometric pressure on the 4000 is quite accurate and the wind (down to .5 mph), temperature and humidity are very sensitive and accurate.

My neighbors are getting used to life near an eccentric airgunner. The sight of me standing in the center of the cul-de-sac with a GPS on my head acting like a statue doesn't even elicit a chuckle any more. Finding dead crows in their yards has become commonplace. And this new behavior of holding a gadget into a 25 mph wind when it is 20 degrees isn't even getting a second glance. Sure, the village idiot can tell you its cold but can he tell you the windchill is -15 degrees. You gotta get one of these!



WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

AIRGUN E MAIL
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 10, 2002

Jim Everett

The second of three winter matches is behind us. Being outside today was a bit more unpleasant than last month. Temperature about the same as last month though cloudy but we had wind to contend with. It was a cold wind and it did affect the shots throughout the match. We shot at the old airgun range and had to put up with its restrictions. The furthest targets were at about 31 yards and were huge. (Somebody really messed up!) We had 10 lanes with 2 targets and shot each twice for a total of 40 off-hand shots. The targets consisted of spinners sized from the huge ones down to less than a half-inch at ranges from 11 yards to the aforementioned 31 yards and field targets sprinkled in every other lane.

Gordan Finlay and his son Paul Pouch were shooting as non-competitors though Paul must learn some survival skills! He beat his Dad by a point but gave it no real thought as to how he would get home after the match. Paul, if Dad were driving it would be best to let him win or least just tie the score. Ah, youth. It is wasted on the young!! Seriously, these guys are really enthused and that will carry them a long way while they learn to beat our pants off.

Ken Reeves turned in another sterling performance shooting 90% on an off hand match. I did hear him complain that he dropped one compared to last month's results. Poor guy must have been the wind. Rick Stoutenburg brought out his Pro Target and had a bit of a problem with an air leak. Maybe the seal contracted in the cold causing the loss of air. Nonetheless, Rick did a good job despite the problem. Steve Sibal had no problems that I was aware of and was seen smiling all through the match. He turned in a very workman like score as well.

RESULTS

MATCH WINNER

Ken Reeves	36	90%	Marksman 56 FTS	CP 7.9 .177	Leupold 6.5x20
Steve Sibal	26	65	NJR 100	CP 10.5 .177	Tasco 10x40
Rick Stoutenburg	25	62.5	Pro Target	CP 7.9 .177	Leupold 6.5x20
Jim Everett	22	55	HW77K	CP 14.3 .20	Bushnell 6x18

Non Competitors

Paul Pouch	18	45	TX200	CP .177	BSA
Gordan Finlay	17	42.5	Gamo	CP .177	

Hope to see you at the match on March 17th

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

AIRGUN E MAIL
NEWSLETTER

March 17, 2002

Jim Everett

The last winter match was held today and the conditions were on the wintry side to say the least. About 32 degrees, a very brisk wind from the northwest shifting to northeast during the match accounted for many of the low scores recorded today. Shooting offhand while the barrel of your rifle is waving in the breeze is at best, disconcerting. The match consisted of ten lanes, 2 targets per lane, 2 shots per target. Of the 20 targets, 4 were field targets. I do believe this match had the smallest KZs of any match to date. The match director and his cohorts must of felt optimistic or lucky!

The kick off of the regular field target season starts on April 21st. We hope to see each of you there because by then the weather should be much more pleasant than at recent matches.

Rick Stoutenburg had prizes for the first two matches. Ken reeves took first place, Eric Sanders second place and Steve Sibal got third place. Cash awards were distributed for today's match.

Rich Nowak's NJR100 had a leak and he finished the match sharing a TX200. Mark Kelly, a new club member who learned of the air gunning program has a number of Sheridan rifles and brought a couple with him, The cold was not conducive to using a pump pneumatic so Rick Stoutenburg had him use a TX200 while Rick Stewart, also a visitor and a lefty, shared Ken Reeves's Marksman 56.

RESULTS

40 SHOTS

MATCH WINNER

Eric Sanders	34	85%	LG100ZM	.177 CP 105	BSA10X50
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A FLIGHT

Jim Everett	23	57.5	HW80K	.177 CP 7.9	RWS 3X9
Ken Reeves	20	50	Mksmn 56	.177 CP 7.9	Leupold 6X20
Rick Stoutenburg	19	47.5	TX200SR	.177 CP 7.9	Leupold 6X20

B FLIGHT

Fritz Sanders	18	45	Huntsman	.177 Kodiak	
Dan Mackay	14	35	HW77	.177 CP 7.9	Simmons 6.5x20
Rich Nowak	14	35	NJR100	.177 Brrda	Nightforce 8x40

NON COMPETITORS

Mark Kelly
Rick Stewart

Level of Accuracy

By Rodney Boyce

About 15 years ago American Field Target was a toddling infant bereft of chronos, ballistic tables, variety of magnum power scopes and of course, Premier pellets. Knowledge of the game was pretty much the blind leading the blind. There were only vague notions of trajectory, scope clicks were a bit mysterious and often combined with holdover, and rangefinding was pure lottery.

Our club back then acquired from Mead in England a life sized Fox target with a two inch kill zone. It was usually placed somewhere between 40 and 50 yards and considered a very tough target. Hits were so rare that when a shooter knocked it down the game was stopped for a hearty round of applause. One very pleasant aspect of the game back then that sticks in my mind was the absence of moans and groans about the course layouts or targets that "misbehave". Were we just stupid or more gentlemanly?

Field Target is fundamentally the same since its very beginning with one mammoth exception --- accuracy. The game has indisputably evolved into a precision shooting sport. Some of the credit for this is attributable to the advances in equipment but, in my opinion, 90% of today's superior shooting level has been brought about by the shooters themselves through knowledge and application of that knowledge to the sport plus the growing of plenty of plain old talent.

A few years ago one could predict within three or four competitors who would get the high score at the Nationals. Since the recent turn of the century, such prognostications are exercises of futility. I tried my crystal ball for 2002 and it shattered all over the table.

A quick look at The Top Ten comparison of 2000 and 2001 tells me only a fool would bet on the outcome. In 2000 the top ten American shooters were, by scoring order, Ron Carlson, Eric Moe, Steve Wheeler, Ray Apelles, Kurt Duch, Mark Catlin, Warren Williamson, Ken Hughes, Dale Montbriand and James White, In 2001, the ten were David Slade, Brian Johnson, James White, Warren Williamson, Tommy Garland, Brad Troyer, Billy Lomeli, Bobby Corcorran, Wade Sutherland and Steve Shulz. We sure have got a lot of super shooters! And I know of another tip-top shooter who was unable to attend either of these Nationals. He'll be there this year along with a lot of other potent potentials.

Wanna bet on the 2002 Nationals?

**Eastern Field Target Competitor's Club (EFTCC)
At Dutchess County Pistol Association (DCPA) - EFTCC @ DCPA 1/27/2002**

Off-Hand (Standing) Class

Name	Score	%	Gun	Optics	Pellet	Velocity	FTLB
Dave Bingham	31	77.5%	Daystate Harrier SE	B&L 6-24x40	10.5 Premiers	823	15.8
Larry Bowne	29	72.5%	Beeman R9 20cal	Trophy 6-18x40	11.2 FTS	766	14.4
Paul Cray	27 *	67.5%	AA TX200	Bushnell 6-20x40	7.9 Premier	950	15.8
Jock Elliott	27 *	67.5%	Career 707 22cal	Bushnell 6-16	14.3 Lazapells	575	10.5
Paul Bishop	26	65.0%	Daystate Huntsman	Burriss 8-32	10.5 Premier	770	13.8
John O'Hanlon	24	60.0%	AA S300	Storey 6-24x44	8.4 JSB Exact	790	11.6
Mark Bishop	22	55.0%	Daystate Mirage	Simmons 6-18x40	7.9 Premier	815	11.7
Mike Fairchild	21	52.5%	Career 707	Trophy 6-18x40	10.5 Premier	850	16.8
Bob Ford	20	50.0%	R1	B&L 8-32x40	7.9 Premiers	1000	17.5
John Walls	18	45.0%	Career 707	Trophy 6-18x40	10.5 Premier	850	16.8
Kyle Kammerer	15	37.5%	Career 707 22cal	Bushnell 6-16	14.3 Lazapells	575	10.5
Ray Apelles	39 DNC	97.5%	NJR100	Nightforce 36FT	7.9 Premiers	815	11.7
Hans Apelles	28 DNC	70.0%	NJR100	B&L 8-32x40	8.4 JSB Exact	790	11.6

* Tie Determined by a Shoot-Off

DNC= Does Not Count

Junior Class

Name	Score	Gun	Optics	Pellet	Velocity	FTLB
Bridget Bowne	32	Crossman 1077W	Bushnell 4X	7.9 Premier	515	4.7

Field Target Match Review EFTCC@DCPA 1/27/2002 - Mid/Winter Off-Hand Only Match

Fourteen shooters – including first-time shooters Paul Cray, John O'Hanlon and John Walls – turned out for the EFTCC offhand field target match on January 27, 2002. Sight-in began at 8:30 am with the match beginning at 10 am. A wide variety of equipment was represented, with three competitors shooting Daystate guns, three shooting springers, and three shooting Careers.

The weather was warm, and the match was enormous fun, with a nice mixture of easy, average, and difficult targets. One of the highlights of the day occurred with the running squirrel target, which has a very low profile. One of the shooters said, "The target won't come up." Ray yells, "Cold line," and everyone stopped shooting. Ray checked the target and announced, "It is up." This was followed by a groan from the disappointed shooters who now realized what they were facing. (I don't care what the match statistics say, that target was a light-year away and the kill-zone was the size of an atom.)

In the end, Dave Bingham walked away with the Top Gun trophy, dropping 77.5% of the targets. Larry Bowne won second with 72.5%. Paul Cray and I were tied for third at 67.5%. In the first round of the shoot-off, we both missed. In the second round, he connected with his shot, and I missed, dropping to fourth. Bridget Bowne scored 32 in the Junior Class. As we drove away, I had the distinct feeling that everyone had fun. And that, after all, is the point.

-- Jock Elliott

Special Thanks to Bob Zimmerman for Donating the Top Gun Award. We will definitely be ordering awards from him in the future.

Full match results with Post Match Stats & pictures of the shooters & the range can be found on the "A" Team's Web Site. (www.bestweb.net/~ateamray)

TAMPA SUPER BOWL 2002 MATCH

NAME	GUN	SCOPE	SAT	SUN	TOTAL	POSITION
PRE-CHARGED						
Kevin Allen	CRX	NF 36	36	34	70	third *
Jim Baumann	Huntsman	Burris 8-32	38	28	66	
David Bialecki	CRX	NF 36	39	39	78	first
Rodney Boyce	Harrier	BSA 10-50	29	27	56	
Mike Cooper	Mako	Tasco 10-50	25	32	57	
John Draper	CRX	NF 36	36	34	70	fifth *
Tommy Garland	Anch 2025	NF 36	36	32	68	
Ike Gatwood	CRX	Burris 8-32	34	21	55	
Nelson Guidry	CR-94	NF-36	33	26	59	
Henry Hartsfield	Huntsman	TechFo 8-32	10	12	22	
Ken Hughes	NJR 100	Weaver T36	37	33	70	fourth *
Bill Isaac	CR-97	Burris 8-32	36	35	71	second
Doug Miller	CR-97	Sim. 6.5-20	29	25	54	
Vipha Miller	P70 jr.	B&L 6-24	22	17	39	
Dick Otten	Steyr LG100	Hako 8-32	26	27	53	
Terry Shults	NJR 100	Hako 8-40	26	29	55	
Roy Smith	Huntsman	Leup 6.5-20	16	29	45	
Don Vandewerker	CRX	NF 36	37	33	70	sixth *
* place decided by shoot off						
PISTON						
Rod Bradley	JW-70	Tasco 10-50	29	22	51	second
George Hamilton	TX-200 SR	Leup 13-38	24	17	41	
Bill Liles	TX-200	B&L 8-32	25	24	49	third
Cliff Smith	TX-200	B&L 6-24	26	27	53	first
Ron Zeman	TX-200 SR	Burris 8-32	26	19	45	fourth

THE 2002 SUPER BOWL FIELD TARGET MATCH (Feb. 2 & 3)

The Super Bowl FT ending was nothing like the New England Patriots picking up the marbles in the last couple of seconds. It was more like a shooting clinic conducted by David Bialecki who casually did a one-a-day miss (token?) routine and waltzed to a win with a super score of 78x80 with his out-of-the-box rifle that is bereft of frills and mods. Not too shabby a performance for a mere child who hasn't shot for almost a year. At the end of the first day at Dade City, David had a pack of hounds nipping at his heels and baying loudly ----- soloist Jim Baumann with a 38, a duet composed of Don Vandewerker and Ken Hughes both with 37s and a quartet of 36ers - Bill Isaac, Kevin Allen, Tommy Garland and John Draper. By the end of the second day at Tampa Bay, David "The Fox" ran away from the hounds by 8 points and had them silenced, their tongues lolling and tails tucked between their legs. However, all the competitors won with a barbecued beef, pork and chicken lunch a la Jim Smith followed by diet wrecking cakes and pies built by the ladies of the American Legion Post 147 - the menu at the venue. Lunch was topped off with deserving competitors being awarded nifty pelican trophies a la Don Vandewerker, Head Honcho of the Pelican Airgunners of Dade City. An added nicety to the match was the presence of the long distance traveling shooters from Georgia, Alabama and California which, by the way, is located on the West coast of the United States of America - ancient Florida saying. Kudos to Cliff Smith, El Supremo of the Tampa Bay Airgunners, Don Vandewerker and their elfin helpers for two very good days in the country.

Rodney Boyce

DIFTA match, March 9, 2002

OPEN CLASS

Earl Brooks	Steyr	Leupold 18-40	CP 10.5	56
Guy Omictin	P70 Jr.	B&L 8-32	CP 10.5	54
Jack Maurer	ZM C62	Tasco CS 8-40	CP 10.5	52
Ted Shaw	ZM2002	Burris 8-32	CP 10.5	DNF
R. Thomas Jones	Harrier	Tasco CS 8-40	CP 10.5	DNF

INTERNATIONAL CLASS

Ray Apelles	NJR100	Nightforce 36	CP 7.9	60
Sam Ventura	ProTarget	Swift 8-32	CP 7.9	52
Hans Apelles	NJR100	B&L 8-32	JSB Exact 8.4	46

PISTON CLASS

Rex Gori	TX200	Leupold 6.5-20	CP 7.9	54
Karl Krehma	TX200	Trophy 6-18	CP 7.9	40
Stan Lipinski	TX200SR	Leupold 6.5-20	CP 7.9	38
Bill Gazdik	TX200	Swift 8-26	Chin. Dome	29
William Halterman	HW97K	RWS 6-18	CP 10.5	29

STANDING CLASS

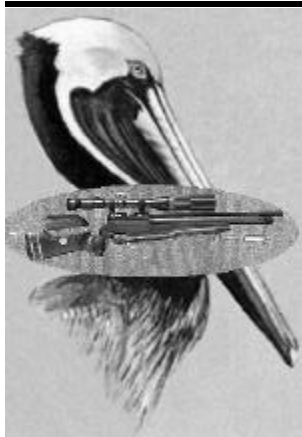
Henry Canoles	R-9	Trophy 4-12	Venom 8.8	31
Dale Benson	ProElite	Tasco SS 20	H&N FTT	30
Ed Canoles	R-9	Trophy 4-12	FTS .20	24
Brad Hoffman	HW95	Weaver V-16	Superdome	8

We met in March for the first match of the year. Though the weather had been on a warming trend, the day was cool and overcast until the end of the match, when the skies opened up and dumped on us. This was a 72 shot match with no breaks.

Seventeen shooters turned out and one was a first-timer, which is the only way the sport can grow. Our course had just been upgraded with new permanent lane markers and it looked like a million on match day.

Ray and Hans Apelles brought a new type of competition to the match - International style. Following their guidelines, shooters use sub-12 fpe guns and always use the most stringent rules of every nation to compete. Consequently, they have a much harder time scoring, but they are prepared to shoot in every nation in the world. Sam Ventura gave it a try with them.

Tom Gaylord



PELICAN AIRGUNNERS

DADE CITY GUN CLUB, FLORIDA

Don VanDewerker
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It has been sometime since I reported the activities of the Pelitcan Club. The Florida weather has been very good to us with few events rained out and the field target events have been great fun.

February 24, 2002 30 shot match

Don VanDewerker	30	CRX	Nightforce 36
Nelson Guidry	27	CR-94	Nightforce 36
John Draper	27	CRX	Nightforce 36
Dick Otten	24	NJR	Hakko 32
Cliff Smith	23	TX 200	B&L 6-24
Ron Zeman	20	TX 200 SR	Burris 8-32
George Hamilton	20	HW 77	Leupold 14-38
Roy Smith	19	Huntsman	Leupold 6.5-20
Bill Liles	11	TX 200	B&L 8-32

March 10, 2002 20 shot match

Jim Baumann	19	Huntsman	Burris 8-32
John Draper	18	CRX	Nightforce 36
Cliff Smith	16	TX 200	B&L 6-24
Dick Otten	14	NJR	Hakko 32
George Hamilton	13	HW 77	Leupold 14-38
Bill Liles	12	TX 200	B&L 8-32

Following the field target match, Dick set up his silhouettes for a fun shoot with air pistols. Kevin and Kay Davey came over from central Florida expressing an interest in taking part in our air-gun sport. We spent the day shooting my guns and I had a great time with a very charming couple. We hope they come back often.

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