AAFTA News



American Airgun Field Target Association

Volume 13, Number 6 August 2003

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From the Editor:

Well, 2/5 of the planned MAFTA Contingent couldn't make it to the Badgerland regionals, but those of us who did had a fantastic time—Thanks a bunch to Alex and the rest of the BAGA gang who worked so hard to make it a terrific shoot. For those of you around the country who might be considering a trip to the Badgerland regionals—Do IT! It is definitely worth the time and effort.

Since nobody has sent me anything besides match results for a long time, I decided to do some writing. At the end of this issue, you'll find a long, boring story about how I got started in this nonsense. If you enjoy the story, I'm glad—If not, SEND ME SOMETHING BETTER!

There are plenty of match results to peruse also.

Shoot straight and enjoy the issue! Jay

Notice

AAFTA is now accepting written bids for the 2004 AAFTA US Nationals.

Bids need to include possible dates, location, description of facilities, format of match, preliminary schedule of events, contact information, etc.

The bids can be emailed to: mbmedic@techie.com

or mailed to:

Ken Hughes 7 Parkway Ct. Dallas GA 30157

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Associate Membership

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AAFTA Member Clubs

PEL:

PMRPC:

PSC:

RCA:

Airgunning Atlanta: Atlanta GA AA:

AOA:

DIFTA:

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http://www.airgunningatlanta.com

Airgunners of Arizona; Mesa, AZ Robert Buchanan 480-461-1113

Bayou Airgun Club; Baton Rouge, LA Jack Kirkendoll 225-755-1715

BAGA: Badgerland Air Gun Association; Bristol, WI Alex Modic 262-895-7251

modic@execpc.com http://www.bagaclub.com

BEC: Bulls Eye Club; St. Martinsville, LA Roland Robichaux 318-394-3611

Bluegrass Airgun Club; Lexington, KY Steve Cox 859-263-8378 BGAC:

coxclark@email.msn.com

Carolina Airgun Club; Winston-Salem, NC Jeff Miller 336-764-4734 CAC:

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Claude Phillipy 540-434-2416 cphillipy@planetcomm.net

Damascus Maryland Chapter of the

Isaak Walton Leauge of America Steve Schultz 301-365-0291

DJMC: Delran Junior Marksman; Delran, NJ John Quiter 732-269-3303

EFTCC: Eastern Field Target Competitor's Club Wappingers Falls, NY

Ray Apelles 845-896-9792 http://www.bestweb.net/~ateamray

Eastern Nebraska Airgunner Field Target; Springfield, NE Rick Kristof 402-253-8230 ENAFT:

1st Prairie Rifles; Olathe KS Richard Keeney 913-780-9937

GIFT: Grand Isle Field Target; Grand Isle, VT

Brian S. Johnson 802-372-4173 GrandIsleFT@hotmail.com

HFTC: Hawaii Field Target Club; Kilauea, HI Joel Efrein 808-828-1203

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Jay Olson-Goude 651-699-3048 iolson-goude@msn.com http://mafta.homestead.com

MCFG: Marion County Fish & Game Association

Indianapolis, IN Anthony Storey 317-925-5544

Mid South Tri-State Airgunners Association MSTS

2

Tom Itterly 901-872-0488

Mountain State Field Target Association MSFTA:

Rick McAllister 304-727-2752 rick.mcallister@worldnet.at

Northern Illinois Air Gunners; Chicago, IL NIAG:

Greg Rozak 773-646-1807

NMAC: Northern Mississippi Airgun Club; Hernando, MS

Stylie Edwards 662-429-5794

NOCASA: Northern California Airgun Shooters Association

San Francisco, CA Mike McKeown 707-253-8029

Ohio Airgun & Field Target Shooters Association; Vienna OH Rick Smelko 330-637-9442 OAFTSA:

OASA: Ohio Airgun Shooters Association; Mansfield, OH

Bruce Perathaner 419-756-7813

Phoenix Airgunners; Phoenix, AZ

Bobby L. Cocorran 5325 W. Pierson Phoenix, AZ 95031

Peltican Airgunners; Dade City, FL Don Vanderwerker 813-621-1509

PFTAC: Pennsylvania Field Target & Airgun Club Lt. Joseph J. Koslop 717-454-7456

Port Malabar Rifle & Pistol Club; Port Malabar, FL

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Pearland Sportsman's Club; Pearland, TX Bob Zimmerman 713-436-1794

River City Airgunners; Spokane, WA Tom Price 509-535-7993

SSG:

Single Shot Group; South Lyon, MI Bill Erwin 313-437-3132

TBA: Tampa Bay Airgunners; Odessa, FL

Cliff Smith 813-884-0507

Tacoma Rifle & Revolver Field Target Club TRRFTC:

Tacoma WA

Kyle McCormack 253-905-1807

Tennessee Valley Airgunners; Huntsville, AL Brad Troyer 256-882-2811

Western Pennsylvania Airgun Association; Homer City, PA Mark Troxell 412-256-3163 WPAA:

Westfield Sportsman's Club; Westfield, MA WSC:

Mark Lisowski 413-562-8997

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.wwcca.com/clubs/air_gun.htm

Associate Member Clubs

WFTA:

Waterloo Field Target Association Waterloo, Ontario, Canada Hans Bormann 519-745-3244

CMPT: Club Mexico de Tiro Pneumatico S. de R. L. Y C. V.: Mexico

Hector J. Medina Hacienda De La Punta 129 Bosques De Echegaray

Naucalpa Edo. De Mexico 53310

2003 Match Schedule

January	February	March	April	May	June
11: CASA Prado	8: CASA Prado	8: CASA Prado	5; ENAFT	4: DAFTC	1: DAFTC, EFTCC
19: WWCCA 25-26: TBA/PEL FL Superbowl	16: WWCCA 22: WFTA	15: ENAFT, TRRFTC 16: WWCCA	12: CASA Prado, DIFTA 13:DAFTC, EFTCC	10: BAGA, CASA Prado, ENAFT 17: ENAFT,	7: ENAFT 7-8: Tennessee 'Good Ole Boy'
26 CASA Angeles, EFTCC	23: CASA Angeles	23: CASA Angeles, ENAFT 29: DIFTA 29-30: ld Temecula FT match	19: ENAFT, MAFTA, TRRFTC 26: TVA 27: WWCCA, CASA Angeles	MAFTA, TRRFTC 17-18: DIFTA Mid- Atlantic Regionals 18: WWCCA 24: TVA 25: CASA Angeles, ENAFT, WFTA	14: BAGA, CASA Prado, DIFTA, ENAFT, MSTS 21: MAFTA, TRRFTC 22: WWCCA, CASA Angeles, ENAFT, WFTA 28: TVA, MSTS
July	August	September	October	November	December
12: BAGA, CASA Prado, DIFTA, ENAFT, MSTS	1-3: World Championships, Northern Ireland 2-3: AOA AZ State	6: DIFTA, ENAFT, MSTS 7: DAFTC	4: Frost-Bite, MSTS 11: BAGA AZ Monster Match, CASA	1: MSTS 8: CASA Prado, DIFTA, ENAFT	6: ENAFT 6-7: MSTS Nationals
NW Regionals 19: ENAFT,	Championships 3: MAFTA 9: BAGA, CASA Prado, ENAFT,	13: BAGA, CASA Prado	Prado, ENAFT 12: DJMC	9: DJMC 15: ENAFT	13: CASA Prado, ENAFT
MAFTA 19-20: DAFTC Western Virginia Regional	MSTS 9-10: EFTCC NE Regionals 10: DJMC 16: ENAFT, MAFTA, TRRFTC	14: DJMC, WFTA 19-21 AAFTA National Championships at WWCCA	18: DIFTA MD State Champion- ships, ENAFT, TRRFTC, MSTS Mini FT	16: EFTCC NY State Championships 22: TVA AL State Championships,	14: WFTA 28: CASA Angeles, ENAFT
20: WWCCA, WFTA	16-17: DAFTC VA State Champion- ships, WFTA Cana-	20: ENAFT, TRRFTC	19: WWCCA, WFTA	MSTS 23: CASA Angeles,	
26: TVA, MSTS 27: CASA Angeles, ENAFT	dian Championships 17: WWCCA 22-23 BAGA Badgerland Regionals 23: TVA, MSTS 24: CASA Angeles, ENAFT	27: MAFTA MN State Champion- ships, TVA 28: CASA Angeles, ENAFT	25: TVA 26: CASA Angeles, ENAFT	ENAFT	

Where to find it

FT Air Rifles		Publications		
Airgun Express(Mako/HW, TX200)	800-896-4867	AAFTA News		813-884-0507
Airguns Alaska	907-522-5900	and AAFTA "Club & Shooters Handb	ook	
Airguns of Arizona (Daystate, Beeman)	480-461-1113	Airgun Digest 3rd Edition		800-247-4876
Beeman Precision Airguns (Mako/HW77 & 97)		Airgun Illustrated		
Benson Airgun Options	888-952-1231	U.S. Airgun Magazine		800-247-4876
Burroughs International (Career)	310-457-5932	Airgun Odyssey by Steve Hanson		860-645-8776
Ken's Airsports (TX200)	419-837-6459			
Mac-1 (Steyr)	310-327-3581	Regulators		
Storey "Custom Shop"	317-925-5544	The "A" Team		845-896-9792
Wade Sutherland	622-429-4663		and/or	914-277-4309
W.W. Mann International	317-241-6011	Joe Korick		360-576-8643
Airgun Accessories		Repair & Tuning		
Precision Airgun Ltd.	562-430-9138	Beeman Precision Airguns		800-227-2744
6		Dave Slade's Airgunwerks		714-724-6169
Ballistic Programs		Ken's Airsports		419-837-6459
The "A" Team	845-896-9792	Mac-1 (Crosman/Benjamin/Sheridan)		310-327-3581
Air Rifle Ballistics	813-634-6507	Time I (Closinian Benjamin Sheridan)		210 227 2201
Precision Airgun Ltd.	562-430-9183	Scopes		
		Airgun Express		800-896-4867
Chronograph		Beeman Precision Airguns		800-227-2744
Airgun Express	800-896-4867	Decinal Freeision Anguns		000-227-2744
Storey "Custom Shop"	317-925-5544	Scope Knobs and/or Levels		
1		The "A" Team		845-896-9792
Cleaning Kits		The A Team	and/or	914-277-4309
Airgun Express	800-896-4867	Airgun Express	and/or	800-896-4867
Airguns of Arizona	480-461-1113	Beeman Precision Airguns		800-227-2744
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744	Ken's Airsports		419-837-6459
200mm 1100m 1 m gum	000 227 27			562-430-9183
Field Targets		Precision Airgun Ltd.		
Precision Airgun Ltd.	562-430-9183	Long-Shot Products, Ltd.		513-683-4999
Rick Stoutenberg	734-261-1683	G 35		
Ron Juneau's Cajun Targets	225-261-7435	Scope Mounts		
juneaur@bellsouth.net	223-201-7433	Airgun Express		800-896-4867
· ·	ursTargetCo@att.net	Airguns of Arizona		480-461-1113
Arter Hours Target Company Arterno	uis raigete o e att.net	Beeman Precision Airguns		800-227-2744
Gas Rams		Mac-1 (Droopers)		310-327-3581
Dave Slade's Airgunwerks	714-724-6169	Precision Airgun Ltd. (BKL)		562-430-9183
Dave Stade's Aliguilwerks	/14-/24-0109			
		Silhouette Targets		
Lubricants		Precision Airgun Ltd.		562-430-9183
Airgun Express	800-896-4867			
Airguns of Arizona	480-461-1113	Stocks		
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744	Wade Sutherland		662-429-4663
Pellets		Wind Flags		
Airgun Express (Crosman Premier)	900-896-4867	Direct Wind Flags/Stylie Edwards		662-429-5794
Airguns of Arizona	480-461-1113		and/or	901-603-7107
Beeman Precision Airguns	800-227-2744			
Mac-1	310-327-3581	Airgun Videos		
		Pellethead		800-213-2088
		Awards and Trophies		
		Bob Zimmerman		713-680-1329

Frost-Bite Open Saturday, Oct. 4th At the Catlin Ranch in

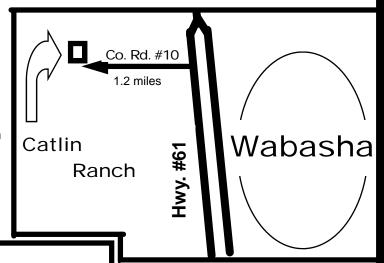
Wabasha, MN (Wabasha is 100 miles Southeast of St. Paul)

This will be a 60 shot match. 1 shot/target; 10 optional 2 point targets; distances given except on 2 point targets; 3 minutes for 2 shots. Beautiful bluff country makes this a unique course with extremely challenging angle shots – good preparation for World's in Germany 2004 Awards will be presented in both the Open Division and the Piston Gun Division.

The practice range will open at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday with the match commencing at 11:00 a.m.

Lunch will be served after the Easy range and a Dinner after the Killer Range

You may park your camper on site.



Registration Form

Registration fee: \$40 includes food all food and beverages on Saturday. Upon registration you will receive confirmation and be furnished with a list of motels and resturants in the area.

Send to:

Ron Carlson 9759 East River Road Pillager, MN 56473

Phone: 218-746-3663

E-mail: frostbite@brainerd.net

2003 "GOOD OLE BOY" Match by Roz Sumpter

Though we were under threat of rain the entire weekend, conditions proved favorable for the competition. Enough rain had preceded match day to make low lying areas extremely soggy. Our red course, which runs along a creek, was initially a point of concern for safety reasons. However, I heard of no close calls due to the mud or other treacherous footing.

We had a very nice mix of shooters for this match. Both major classes were tightly contested for champion status and had to be decided by the last shot, or tie-breaker lanes. Though rivalry was in the air, the atmosphere was predominately filled with that of a festive nature. It seems that the "Good Ole Boy" attracts those with attitudes that the name would indicate.

It was especially nice to have four women competing for high female honor. This is one classification that has been lagging during the growth of our sport. Perhaps we've reached a turning point in that sector. Surely Jackie Damien hopes so since she presently dominates her competitors and would like a few more to whip on. Our Ancient Mariner, Rodney Boyce, graced us with his first visit to the "Good Ole Boy." Sir Rodney tinkered with his set-up throughout the match, and although unable to perform as in his glory days, did show signs that he enjoyed himself. In fact, Rodney called me a few days after his return home to offer complements on how well the entire proceedings went. He also stated that he had worked out some technical difficulties and that the present top shooters are on notice that: "I'll be back."

Moving right along to our prime time players, PCP Class continues to be hotly contested. These guys seem to have a dog fight for dominance at every outing. At this match, Walt Roller was pack leader going into the final lap of the race. He managed to hang on until he arrived at the bend of the road considered to be the toughest target on the course. It was there that relentless Wade Sutherland capitalized on the opportunity and caught Walt. After that, our tie-breaker lanes forced Walt to swallow the bitter pill of defeat; "there can be only one."

As for Piston Gun Class, Brad Troyer continues his quest to show that he be the man. The thing about Brad is that he won't roll over if he gets behind. I've seen other good shooters over the years do just that. In fact, I've done it myself. However, Brad's nature drives him to get downright mean and dogged when he is losing. This was vividly illustrated by his outstanding come from behind score of 55 on the second day. And though Rod Bradley too was making a very good run for first place, Brad proved one point too much for him.

Take a good look at the final leader board at this match in comparison to that of the upcoming U.S. Nationals in Michigan this year. You may see a shuffling of position but, those same names will most likely be there. Our largest group of visiting competitors came with Tom Itterly from his MSTS club in Mumford, Tennessee. Our most distant travelers, as well as two of the most improved competitors doing the circuit, are Doug and Vipha Miller from California. And our walk away happiest first time visiting shooter just had to be Bill Howarth from Wisconsin. Bill's two trophies will tell you why.

We would like to recognize and express appreciation for the generous gifts provided by Bill Isaac, Bob Winer and Richard Nowak. Also to Dick Otten for the mechanism, and Don VanDewerker for the idea and execution of the infamous "sniper in the barn" target . They all added to the enjoyment of the proceedings.

There are other details of this match worthy of print but, time and space do not permit. What I strongly suggest to you is find the time and means to get to some of these major matches. Remember, we all have an invisible expiration date stamped on our carcass. When the rocking chair years arrive it will be nice to have your data base full of good memories to sustain you.

Cliff Smith, Brad Troyer and I enjoyed every minute of the match and every person in attendance. Y'all come back to see us again, and bring a friend.

June 7th & 8th "GOOD OLE BOY" Match Results

Match Winner Wade Sutherland	Score 112	Rifle LDSS#3	Scope Hakko 8-40	Pellet * (Crosman Prem. Unless specified)
PCP Class				
Walt Roller	112 (1)	Dro Torgot	Burris 8-32	*
Don VanDewerker	` '	Pro Target CRX	NF 36X	*
	110 (2)	CRX		*
Doug Miller Bill Howarth	110 (3)		Leupold 40X	*
	108 (4)	Steyr	BSA 10-50	
Kevin Allen	108 (5)	NJR 100	Leupold 35X	JSB 8.4
Ken Hughes	107	Harrier	Leupold 35X	JSB 8.4 *
Bob Winer	107	Steyr	B&L 8-32	
Stylie Edwards	105	Ripley	NF 36X	*
David Slade	104	FWB P70	B&L 6-24	*
Bill Isaac	102	CR97	Burris 8-32	*
Bill Slater	101	CR94	NF 36X	*
Tom Itterly	101	Ripley		*
Tommy Garland	98	Pro-Target	NF 36X	*
Joe Whittaker	95	FN19	Burris 8-32	Kodiak
Jackie Damien	95	FWB P70	B&L 8-32	*
Bob Duncan	94	Pro-Target	NF 36X	*
Richard Nowak	92	NJR 100	NF 8-40	*
Greg Garner	84	CRX	Leupold 35X	Kodiak
Rodney Boyce	81	Harrier	B&L 6-24	*
Vipha Miller	78	Steyr	Leupold 35X	*
Phil Herman	70	CRX	Hakko 10-50	*
June Curry	69	Dominator	TechF 8-32	*
Ann Rettig	68	Dominator	TechF 8-32	*
Marc Martin	48	Dominator	TechF 8-32	*
Piston Class				
Brad Troyer	100(1)	HW97	B&L 6-24	* 7.9
Rod Bradley	99 (2)	JW70	BSA 10-50	JSB 8.4
Roz Sumpter	95 (3)	TX200SR	Bush 6-24	JSB 8.4
Cliff Smith	89 (4)	TX200	B&L 6-24	JSB 8.4
Bill Greene	89 (5)	HW97	Bush 6-24	* 7.9
Rick Stoutenburg	83	TX200SR	Leupold 6.5-20	
Bob Ellis	78	TX200SR TX200SR	BSA 10-50	* 7.9
Ken Reeves	73 77	TX2005K	Burris 8-32	* 7.9
	74	TX200SR	Tasco 8-40	* 7.9
James Sumpter Jim Geddes	72	TX2003K TX200	Swift 6-24	JSB 8.4
				* 7.9
Jim Everett	62 DNE	TX200SR	Bush 6-24	1.7
Bruce Parathaner	DNF			
Junior				
Atley Toyer	56	FN19	Bush 6-24	*

First Place Team: Bill Howarth, Dave Slade, Bill Isaac, Rick Stoutenburg High Lady: Jackie Damien

BAGA - 4th Annual Badgerland Regional FT Championships - August 23-24, 2003

The 2003 Badgerlands are now in the history books and lots of new exciting events are now etched into our clubs historical ledger. This was the second year of the two-day format, but this year we increased the number of targets to 58, making it a 116 total shot venue. To try and balance the schedule with that of the traveling shooter, we had 64 shots in the Saturday afternoon match and 52 shots for the Sunday morning match. Normally this should have allotted lots of slack time for all to eat their Sunday brunch, get their awards and still catch their planes for early departures, but then there is always a glitch! Our glitch was the exciting shoot-off contested between 4 shooters to determine the 3rd place position and by its derivative, the 4th, 5th and 6th placement. In addition the High Senior standing was also determined by this same shoot-off.

To begin with, the entire weekend's weather schedule couldn't have been more perfect, except for a slight little breeze that cropped up late Sunday morning. The dry forecast and breeze did keep most of the lively bugs to a minimum, but I'm sure some of us might have preferred the bugs to that little wind on the last few lanes on the final day. Add to that a bit of the infamous Badgerland difficulty factor and sprinkle in some of the countries premier FT shooters and it simply spells E-X-C-I-T-E-M-E-N-T. This years piston group was well balanced, albeit some wished their equipment had been checked a bit more whilst others should have left the barrel un-cleaned. But then these are the intricacies of the FT shooter. The Open groups was also well balanced, but did not have near as much equipment issues, although the unexpected hiss of an emptying reservoir did remind most of us to be sure and fill halfway through the course.

The course layout provided some exceptionally well thought out targets or as were referred to by the one of the participants as "what the heck made you put that one there?" and by another as "How did you get that one all the way up there? Needless to say the new target positions started quite a few discussions. These discussions also entailed quite a bit of talk about the off-handers and the forced kneelers as well. Long story short, seems as though a mediocre off-hand or an easier kneeler proved to be almost as difficult as the most difficult sitting positions. This year's event even had a couple of targets that stretched beyond the 55-yard guideline, but everyone was advised in advance to shoot-in at the appropriate yardage.

The meals, both a Saturday evening supper and a Sunday afternoon lunch, were again prepared by our own restaurateur, Bill Slater and his wife, Maureen. Maureen's culinary expertise showed well in the Chicken and Dumplings and again in the Praline Sweet Potato and roasted ham. And as always the desserts were fantastic. Thanks again Bill and Maureen!

The course difficulty was a bit lower then in past Badgerlands, set at only 42.6 overall. But the target lighting and some of the very high shots should have skewed that number a bit closer to the ratings of years past. (Does anyone know what rating factor to use on a target that is greater then a 48-degree incline?) Nonetheless, the match was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. I'm sure that we will see all of these shooters return for next year's championships.

At the completion of the match, only the third place Open Division needed to be determined by a post match "shoot-off". All of the spectators were treated to a highly exciting duel, which was finally determined by a sudden death, 59.5 yard shot, on the open and windy sight in range. Awards included custom etched Crystal Plaques and were awarded to the top 5 Open and top 3 Piston shooters. In addition three 1st place team awards and the high Lady, Senior and Junior awards were also presented. Other prizes were presented to the first two early registrants and to some special club helpers. Thanks again to all that have helped make the Badgerlands such a great success. See you next year.

- Reported by Alex Modic - BAGA

Results of the 4th Annual Badgerland Regional FT Championships:

Pos		Name	Sat/64x	Sun/52x	Total/1	16x	Gun		Scope
1		Greg Sauve	58	44	102		ZM Steyr LG	-100	BSA 10-50
2		Mike Frahm	55	39	94		ZM Steyr LG	-100	BSA 10-50
3*		Allen Zasadny	51	42	93		ZM Steyr LG	-100	BSA 10-50
4 *		Bob Winer - Hi Sr.	51	42	93		ZM Steyr LG	-100	B&L 8-32
5*		Ron Carlson	45	48	93		AA Custom 1	00	BSA 10-50
6*		Frank Barreca	50	43	93		ZM Steyr LG	-100	BSA 10-50
7		Ron Weber	52	40	92		ZM Steyr LG	-100	BSA 10-50
8		Vlad Berchanskiy	51	39	90		ZM Anschutz	2002 Alu	BSA 10-50
9		Bill Howarth	41	43	84		ZM Steyr LG	-100	Nikko 10-50
10		Bill Slater	43	40	83		Daystate CR-	94	NF 36
11		Alex Modic	45	31	76		ZM Steyr LG	-100	BSA 10-50
12		Dennis Taki	42	33	75		ZM Steyr LG	-100	BSA 10-50
13		Mark Catlin	39	31	70		Walther LG 3	00	BSA 10-50
14		Jessica Carrol - Hi Lady	34	29	63		ZM Steyr LG	-100	BSA 10-50
15		Greg Garner	31	28	59		Daystate CR-	X	Leup Comp 35X
16		Dyllan Frahm - Hi Jr.	25	24	49		ZM FWB P-7	0 Jr	BSA 10-50
17		Joel Cardella	22	20	42		ZM FWB P-7	0	Silver Burris 8-32
*		Determined by shoot-off							
Pist	on Class								
1		Roz Sumpter	34	37	71		Whiscomb JV	V-50	B&L 6-24
2		James Sumpter	25	26	51		AA TX-200S	R	Tasco 8-40
3		Jay Olson-Goude	29	19	48		AA TX-200		Leup 6.5-20x40
4		Brandon Carrol	31	13	44		Beeman HW	R-1	Bushnell 6-18
5		Jim Everett	25	16	41		AA TX-200S	R	B&L 6-24
Pos	Team			S	at/192 S	Sun/1	56 Total/348		
1	R. Weber, R	R. Carlson, J. Sumpter		1	22 1	14	236		
2	A. Zasadny,	R. Sumpter, G. Gasrner		1	22 1	01	223		
3	G. Sauve, M	I. Catlin, J. Olson-Goude		1	26 9	94	220		
4	F. Barreca,	B. Howarth, J. Everett		1	16 1	02	218		
4	M. Frahm, I	D. Taki, D. Frahm		1	16 1	02	218		
5	V. Berchans	skiy, B. Slater, J. Cardella		1	16 9	9	215		
6	B. Winer, J.	Carrol, B. Carrol		1	16	94	210		

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION AIRGUN NEWSLETTER

Jim Everett August 18, 2003

We had great weather and a fair turn out considering the circumstances of the last few days. "Black out 2003" probably did affect the attendance to some degree. We had a number of newcomers to WWCCA and some were new to the sport as well. Roger Barker, Dave Rebman and Jeff Paddock made the long trek from northeastern Ohio. While Roger Ososki brought along his son Eric to his first field target match. Blake Licht returned to the scene after a 12 year hiatus. It was good to see Blake back shooting again. Leigh Remp shot as a non competitor using Rick Stoutenburg's Pro Target. She did say that with a clay, if you hit any part it counted whereas this is not so with field target. We welcome all of you and invite you to return. Some of these people indicated they will come to the Nationals next month for the experience and to see what goes on at a major match. We hope they do, as attending a major is an experience not to be forgotten.

Lee McCormick was the only spring piston shooter in the A Flight shooting a 50x60, everyone else was a PCP shooter. This was probably Lee's best showing since he began at WWCCA. Nice job, Lee!! Phil Herman, in an effort to eliminate a shoot off with Eric Sanders for the match winner, dropped his last shot, this gave Phil the undisputed position of the winner in the A Flight. I think Phil was speaking tongue in cheek when he said this!

The airgun range is coming along well. The grounds that approach the range has had some of the underbrush removed with more scheduled. The small parking area is being gravel topped while the sod has been laid. Rick is in the process of finishing the doors and tables in the range itself. We will be using this range as well as the 100 yard range for the Nationals. Mike Ellis, Bob Ellis's son will be on site during the event selling shirts, sweatshirts, hats and etc with an appropriate logo of the 2003 Nationals.

	Results					
MATCH WINNER						
Eric Sanders	55	91.67%	LG1000	.177	CPH	BSA 10-50
A FLIGHT						
Phil Herman	54	90.00	Daystate	.177	CPH	Hakko 10-50
Steve Sibal	53	88.33	NJR100	.177	CPH	Tasco 8-40
Roger Ososki	52	86.67	ZM2002	.177	CPH	BSA 10-50
Rick Nowak	51	85.00	NJR100	.177		NF 8-40
Lee McCormick	50	83.33	TX200SR	.177	CPL	Sim 6.5-20
B FLIGHT						
Jim Everett	44	73.33	TX200SR	.177	CPL	B&L 6-24
Rick Stoutenburg	42	70.00	TX200SR	.177	CPL	Leup 6.5-20
Roger Barker*	41	68.33	TX200	.177	FTS	B&L 6-24
Rick Stewart*	41	68.33	HW97K	.177	CPL	Sim 6.5-20
C FLIGHT						
Fritz Sanders	29	48.33	RWS 94	.177	CPL	Sim 6.5-20
Blake Licht	26	43.33	TX200	.177	CPL	Bush 6-18
Dave Rebman	18	30.00	R 11	.177	CPL	BSA 4-32
Eric Ososki	17	28.33	AA S200	.177	CPL	Burris 8-32
Jeff Paddock	16	26.67	R 9	.177	CPL	Bush 6-18
Non Competitor						
Leigh Remp	DNF					

^{*} Denotes position by longest string of hits

MSTS Match July 12, 2003

Field Target

With all those hot scores turned in at the mini field target match earlier this day, we all were hoping that this match would be the same...NOT! This was far, far harder than Mini, but still not so hard as to make in impossible to clean. I must say, the layout of targets for kill zone size was nicely done with Marc Martin and Bob Ray doing the lion's share of the set up. Thanks so much guys. You really did a fine job! Our whole club is really starting to take shape, with some of the work being done as a complete surprise. Our first new bridge has been built, thanks to Fred Caldwell and brother Bill. All our members have helped and are greatly appreciated, but so much more work is still needed. Oh so little time is left. We can do it!

Field Target

		<u>rieid Target</u>		
]	Pre/charge (Adult C	<u>lass)</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Score</u>	
Tom Itterly	Ripley TI Custom	N/F 36	36/38	
Bob Ray	Walther LG-300	BSA 8-32	23/38	
Marc Martin	Walther LG-300	T/F 8-32	17/38	
	Pre/ch	arge (Junior Class 1	2 - 17 yrs)	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	Scope	Score	
Kevin Itterly	A/A S-400 E	T/F 8-32	20/38	
•				
		Mini- Field Targ	<u>et</u>	
]	Pre/charge (Adult C	<u>lass)</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>	Score
Tom Itterly	Ripley TI Custom	N/F 36	10.5	22/22
Bob Ray	Walther LG-300	BSA 8-32	10.5	22/22
Marc Martin	Walther LG-300	TF 8-32	10.5	22/22
Fred Caldwell	QB-77(CO2)	Weaver 15x	7.9	19/22
	Pre/ch	arge (Junior Class 1	2 - 17 yrs)	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>	<u>Score</u>
Kevin Itterly	A/A S-400 E	TF 8-32	10.5	21/22
Odie Minyard	QB-77	Weaver 15x	7.9	14/22
•	Spring Cla	ass - Open Sight (Yo	outh 6 - 11 yrs)	
<u>Name</u>	Rifle	<u>Scope</u>	Score	
Cory Martin	TF 12	Open Sight	17/22	
Brandon Martin	TF12	Open Sight	9/22	

At this mini field target match, it seemed like we were all dialed in and ready to shoot our best. We added one more target for this match and had one guest shooter, Odie Minyard, a friend of the Martin family. As you can see from the scores, everyone had a very good day. With Bob Ray, Marc Martin, and myself all ending in a tie with a perfect score. My son Kevin had one brain fart and turned his scope in the wrong direction, which caused him to miss one of the harder shots by a full turn out. Fred Caldwell, shot with us today. A long time friend and member of MSTS since 1995. His score was also very good. He shot his QB-77 (CO2) rifle, many shots standing and some sitting. Cory Martin shot his Tech Force 12 spring gun with open sights and ended with a very nice 17/22 in the youth class. Odie Minyard used Fred's QB-77 and received some helpful instructions from Fred. He did real good for himself. Brandon Martin also did very well using a spring gun with open sights. I have seen a great improvement by all since the start of our season.

See, practice does help! Oh, all our lady shooters were absent this time. Ann Rettig was attending her son's baseball games and June and Jackie made a trip to California. They both had a great time, and I was told they were treated like queens. Thanks so much CASA. Another great example of how airgun field target shooters are the best! Thanks,

Tom Itterly

MSTS July 26, 2003

Field Target

This match also used new lanes with many more tree shots than before. Ann Rettig and Kevin Itterly both shared a pre/charge rifle from their group. Bob Ray was letting Ann use his Dominator LG-300 and was also shooting with Jackie. He was all smiles. I shot with my son, Kevin, and Marc Martin. We all had a big time, but were pushed a little with everyone having to make a cub scout meeting. Bob Ray, Jackie Damien, and Ann Rettig rolled up their sleeves right after shooting and picked up most of the targets and left in a hurry. Marc Martin, our target master, stayed on to finish clean up and put all targets in his truck for the next match. Again, I would like to mention that both Bob Ray and Marc Martin have been doing a great job of painting and getting the targets to and from the matches. Another fun match finished!

	<u>F1e</u>	eld Target (Adult)		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>	<u>Score</u>
Tom Itterly	Ripley Custom TI	N/F 36	10.5	35/38
Jackie Damien	FWB P-70	Bushnell 8-32	10.5	33/38
Ann Rettig	Walther LG-300	T/F 8-32	10.5	28/38
Bob Ray	Walther LG-300	T/F 8-32	10.5	23/38
Marc Martin	Walther LG-300	T/F 8-32	10.5	21/38
	Field Targe	t (Junior class 12 -17 yrs.)	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	Scope	<u>Pellet</u>	Score
Kevin Itterly	Ripley Custom TI	N/F 36	10.5	19/38

r. 11m

Mini Field Target

We had twelve shooters today try their hand at mini-field target. The weather was great and things at our club are really starting to shape up. Shooters came to this match seeing many new lanes. Six to be exact. For a grand total of fourteen lanes. New bridges are also being built to cross the creek bed. When all the work is done, I hope to see 50 to 60 total lanes with some 15 - 20 bridges with some of the most unique shots you have ever seen. Shooting down our creek bed or up in a valley set between two vast hills or targets placed in the tree tops or below under the tree roots, you must come and see our very unique club site. A vast array of target placements await you. In our mini class, Kevin Itterly, one of our Junior Shooters, cleaned the course with 20/20. And our very own Jackie Damien also cleaned the course, but she did it all standing! More of the adult shooters are also planning on shooting it standing.

	<u>Pre/char</u>	ge (Adult Class)		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>	Score
Jackie Damien	FWB P-70	Bushnell 8-32	10.5	20/20
Marc Martin	Walther LG-300	T/F 8-32	10.5	19/20
Ann Rettig	Walther LG-300	T/F 8-32	10.5	18/20
Bob Ray	Walther LG-300	T/F 8-32	10.5	16/20
Linda Martin	Tech Force 79	Bushnell 4-12	7.9	12/20
	Pre/charge (Ju	nior Class 12 - 17 yrs.)		
<u>Name</u>	Rifle	Scope	<u>Pellet</u>	Score
Kevin Itterly	QB-77	Bushnell 6-24	7.9	20/20
	<u>Junio</u>	(Open Sight)		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>	Score
Chris Gareau	QB-77	Open Sight	7.9	15/20
Odie Minyard	TF-12	Open Sight	7.9	6/20
	Youth Class	- Scope (6 - 11 yrs.)		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>	<u>Score</u>
Joey Gareau	TF-79	TF 4-16	7.9	14/20
Veronica Knight	TF-79	Bushnell 4-12	7.9	9/20
	Youth Class - C	<u> Open Sight (6 - 11 yrs.)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>	<u>Score</u>
Cory Martin	TF-12	Open Sight	7.9	12/20
Brandon Martin	TF-12	Open Sight	7.9	10/20

Canadian Field Target Championships 2003

Waterloo, Ontario

Another Canadian Championship match is in the books and all who attended enjoyed good weather and great company. The attendance was a little lower than expected due to illness, injury and I think a few that were perhaps worried about the weather. On Saturday morning during the sight in period, it really poured rain a couple of times. As the match neared, the weather cleared. Poetic, isn't it? Saturday was clear and warm, with light winds and on Sunday it was sunny and cool, with some stronger variable breezes. It was great weather for a field target match.

We had thirty lanes with two targets set up in each one. We shot the uneven lanes on Saturday and the even ones Sunday. This made both sixty shot courses quite equal and created variety on both days. That was Hans' brain child and I hope that format will continue in the future. The difficulty ratings can be deceptive, as we had twenty shots in the 40 through sixty range on the Troyer difficulty scale.

I was lucky enough to shoot with Brian Johnson and George Hamilton, our two American participants, and we had a great time as I am sure the other groups did. I was able to get around and take a few pictures of each group to show the shooters and the course. The woods were beautiful and even the field lanes were set so the shooter's boxes were in the shade from some huge maple trees.

On the first day we had six shooters with scores over 50/60. Brian showed he came to win by recording a perfect 60 on the first day, something that happens very rarely at Waterloo. I was able to stay with Brian through 52 shots, but dropped three of the last eight. Dennis was also shooting well, recording a 55/60, followed by George Hamilton with a 52. Mike Ferarra and Don Irvine came in tied at 51. This is Don's first FT season and I'm sure he will be winning his share soon. We all chowed down on some pizza and talked for quite some time after the first sixty.

On the second day, things did not change very much. Brian continued in his zone and only dropped one. Mike Ferarra, George Hamilton and Dennis each recorded an impressive 56/60. I managed a 55 and Don shot a 53. When the dust had settled, Brian was the big winner with a 119/120 to claim the title for this year; that's some great shooting. I was able to edge Dennis out by one point, 112 to 111, to claim second and the honour of top Canadian shooter that Dennis held last year. George Hamilton placed fourth, with a score of 108 followed by Mike Ferarra with a 107. Don ended up with 104 to claim sixth in his First Canadian Championships. I was happy to see that Hans had a good match and finished seventh.

Mike Howse was able to shoot with us for the first time on Saturday after a 2 hour drive, coming off a midnight shift, but to repeat that two days in a row was impossible. Doug was only able to make it on Sunday as the power was out in his building in Toronto and the parking garage door was electric. What luck. George Harde recorded a 90 with his springer and Danny, who had a good second day, was close behind. Magdy and his son, Tarek both shot well, but Tarek had some scope problems on Sunday that lowered his score. Noel had some trouble Saturday and improved on Sunday, but Noel always has fun no matter what the numbers say.

The awards as usual were amazing. Brian who chose first, for some reason chose that impressive brass canon that Hans had made up. No surprise there. Hans had also made up some awards in the shape of the various pellets as well as one of his brass, scaled down, TX200 models. Two of his magnetic flip targets were included as well as some small tools and pellet holders. Everyone came away with at least two prizes and a few with three.

I enjoyed the whole experience and would like to thank all of the participants and those who helped with setup and tear down. A special thank you goes out from everyone to Hans, who is the main man that makes this event a success. Till next time.

Name	Gun	Scope	Pellet	Day 1/60 T-27	Day 2 /60 T-29	Total /120 T-28
1) Brian Johnson	Pro Target	BSA 10-50	Baracuda	60	59	120
2) Tim MacSweyn	1d/SS #4	Deben 10-50	CPH	57	55	112
3) Dennis Eden	ld/SS #5	BSA 10-50	CPH	55	56	111
4) George Hamilton	AA NJR	Leuplod 18-40	CPH	52	56	108
5) Mike Ferarra	AA NJR	Leupold 18-40	Baracuda	51	56	107
6) Don Irvine	Steyr FT	Deben 8.5-34	CPH	51	53	104
7) Hans Borman	Pro Target	Leupold 18-40	Baracuda	45	47	92
8) George Harde	Diana 54	Bushnell 8-32	Baracuda	46	44	90
9) Danny Reginato	AA s300	Bushnell 6-24	Air Arms	39	46	85
10) Magdy Hassouna	Steyr FT	Deben 10-50	CPH	41	43	84
11) Tarek Hassouna	Huntsman	Bushnell 4-20	CPH	37	16	57
12) Will Kwan	TX200HC	Burris 8-32	Baracuda	16	36	52
13) Noel Sedman	Huntsman	7X	CPH	8	18	26
Doug Diver	Rapid 17 FT	Burris 8-32	CPH		43	DNF
Mike Howse	Steyr FT	Deben 8.5-34	JSB Exact	22		DNF

BAGA- Badgerland AirGun Association - July 12, 2003

We again had thirteen shooters at today's match, including another new shooter and some long lost and returning regulars. Too bad that Rick Z. is moving away, we will miss him in future monthly matches, but expect him to return for the "Big Ones". This was the annual match run by the conglomeration of three other MD's at BAGA, as a team effort. Thanks again thanks to Vlad, Ron and Dennis for giving me the break I needed. I will try to get back at it for next month, but would still like to rely on you all for most appreciated help. Thanks also to Don C. and Brandon for help with course set-up and take down.

I do want to apologize for some of the delays and the late awarding of the certificates, but will all the extra activities, things got a bit bogged down. Hopefully, Frank's troubles were easily resolved after the tow truck got him to the repair shop. Thanks again to Frank for being a real trooper and hanging in there to complete the match with the knowledge that he may not have a ride home to Iowa afterwards....great shooting for that weighing on your mind throughout the entire match.

The course of fire was the back course and due to last minute set-up, final Troyer ratings have not yet been established for the 52 shots. There was a bit of rumbling about the difficulty of some of the darker targets, but this is good for practice as these types are often found at other shooting clubs. Of course the small KZ's may be more particular to our course. I hope you did enjoy a bit of the respite for the larger KZ's on some of the newer target locations.

It was a very tight race amongst the top shooters but again no need for a shoot-off this week as single points separated the top three shooters. Congrats to Ron for his winning shooting and to Alex (amazingly???) and Don for coming in close behind him. And again congrats to Bill Kushner on his maiden FT match. See you all next month. Alex Modic - BAGA

Pos.	Name	Total/48	Gun		Scope
1	Ron Weber	43		ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
2	Alex Modic	42		ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
3	Don Carkhuff	41		ZM2002 Cane	Nightforce 36
4	Vlad Berchanskiy	40		ZM 2002 Alu	BSA 10x50
5	Bill Howarth	38		ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
5	Frank Barreca	38		ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
7	Greg Sauve	35		ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
8	Brandon Carrol (High Spring)	32		HW R-1	Bushnell 6x18
9	Dennis Taki	28		ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
10	Jessica Carrol (High Lady)	25		ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
10	Rick Zerby (12 ft-lbs)	25		Rapid 17 MKII	Burris 8-32x44R/A
12	Don Fong	16		CR-X	BSA 10x50
13	Bill Kushner (First Time)	14		ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50

BAGA- Badgerland AirGun Association – Aug 9, 2003

The course of fire was the odd lanes for a total of 52 shots. It was another good showing for our club members and the top shooters are again piquing their talents in preparations for the Badgerlands. Bill Slater made a surprise visit in preparations for providing the food for the Badgerlands. Congrats to Allen for his amazing score on this very difficult course. Thanks also to Dennis and Ron for the food afterwards. See you all next month. - Alex Modic

Pos.	Name	Total/52	Gun	Scope
1	Allen Zasadny	50	ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
2	Greg Sauve	46	ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
3	Ron Weber	44	ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
4	Bill Howarth	42	ZM Steyr LG-100	Nikko 10-50x60
5	Alex Modic	40	ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
6	Bill Slater	36	Daystate CR-94ZM	Nightforce 36FT
7	Dennis Taki	34	ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
7	Frank Barreca	34	ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
9	Bill Kushner	28	ZM Steyr LG-100	BSA 10x50
9	Brandon Carrol (Spring)	28	HW R-1	Bushnell 6x18

MAFTA Results August 2003 Match II

August 16, 2003

Conditions
Temp: 94F
Precipitation: None
Wind: 1-3 mph W
60X possible

Open Division

Dan Burt

Harvey Binder

Beeman R-9

Air Arms TX-200

Ron Carlson	Air Arms Custom 100	BSA 10-50	Premier 10.5	56
Dave Ahrenholz	NJR-100	Nikko-Sterling 10-50	Premier 10.5	54
Neil Younggren	Steyr ZMLG100	BSA 10-50	Premier 10.5	50
Ben Fok	Daystate PH6	Burris 8-32	Premier 10.5	49
Rod Skogen	NJR-100	Burris 8-32	Premier 10.5	49
Karen Skogen	Beeman Mako	Burris 8-32	Premier 10.5	46
Caleb Olson				
(first shoot)	FWB P70FT	Leupold 6.5-20	JSB 8.4	26
Piston Division				
Jay Olson-Goude	Air Arms TX-200	Burris 8-32	Premier 7.9	20
Jay Olson-Goude	Air Arms TX-200	Burris 8-32	Premier 7.9	20

Another good day for field target in Minnesota. It wasn't quite as perfect as the last few matches, a little warm for that, but still quite nice. We had ten people shoot our normal (31.2 Troyer) course. Ron took the open division with a 56/60, but Dave was right behind him with a personal best 54/60. The rest of the open scores were higher than usual too. I brought my 13 year-old nephew Caleb with me for his first ever chance at shooting adult airguns. I quickly sort-of set up and sighted in my new P70 for him, and he proceeded to kick my butt with it. I barely took the piston division by one point over Dan. Harvey showed up for the first time this year, shared my TX and managed a respectable 25 percent.

Bushnell 4-12

Burris 8-32

Kodiak 10.6

Premier 7.9

19

15

DAFTC West Virginia Regional Championship July 19-20, 2003

Hans Apelles

Name	Possible 120	Gun	Pellet	Scope
Open Class				
Hans Apelles Abe Diaz Joe Whittaker Werner Wicha Rodger Feddon Joe McDaniel Claude Phillipy Guy Omictin R. Thomas Jones	105 104 99 89 86 83 77 69DNF 60DNF	NJR 100 Daystate CR-97 Falcon FN19TRW Walther LG300DM Falcon FN19 Steyr LG100ZM FX2000 P70Jr AA ProTarget	CPH CPH BKM CPH BK CPH BK CPH BK CPH BK	B&L 8-32 Weaver 36 Burris 8-32 BSA 10-50 Simmons 6.5-20 Swift 8-32 Nikko 10-50 Nikko 10-50 Nikko 10-50
Piston Class				
Ray Apelles	90	TX200SR	JSB	Nightforce 36
Hunter Class				
Ed Canoles Henry Canoles	44 44	R-9 R-9	CPL CPL	Bushnell 4-12 Bushnell Elite 5-15
Junior Class				
Derek Andes	49	HW-97	CPL	4x
Quigley Bucket Shoot Winner				

2 out of 3 55 yards offhand

DAFTC Virginia State Championship August 16-17, 2003

<u>Name</u>	Possible 120	Gun	Pellet	Scope
Open Class				
Guy Omictin	109	P70Jr	Barracuda	Nikko 10-50
Hans Apelles	107	NJR 100	СРН	B&L 8-32
Werner Wicha	105	Walther LG300DM	CPH	BSA 10-50
Rodger Feddon	97	Falcon FN19	BK	Simmons 6.5-20
Abe Diaz Claude Phillipy	84DNF 82	Daystate CR-97 FX2000	CPH BK	Weaver 36 Nikko 10-50
R. Thomas Jones	60DNF	AA ProTarget	СРН	Nikko 10-50
Piston Class				
Paul Bishop	99	TX200	FTS	B&L 8-32
Ray Apelles	86	TX200SR	JSB	Nightforce 36
Dick Otten	70	Whiscombe JW70/2	JSB	Hakko 10-50RF
Hunter Class				
Ed Canoles	54	R-9	CPL	Bushnell Elite 5-15
Henry Canoles	46	R-9	CPL	Bushnell Elite 5-15
Junior Class				
Derek Andes	186/65	HW-97	CPL	4x
Quigley Bucket Shoot Winner				

Henry Canoles 2 out of 3 55 yards offhand

Field Target sucks - Or, How did I get myself into this?

By Jay Olson-Goude

In 1998, I started looking for an air pistol that I could use for bullseye practice in my basement. During that search, I read about the sport of Field Target. I later found out that there was an active club in the Twin Cities are and was invited to check it out. I finally made it out to a match, intending to quietly observe only, but was quickly forced to sit down and give it a try.

The first gun I was offered was Tony Devich's Air Arms TM-100. I sat down. Tony showed me how the rifle operated, and cautioned me that the trigger was very light. I put my eye to the scope and was almost on target when the rifle went off. Light? I guess! OK, so I try it again. Find the target, gently squeeze the trigger - clank! Down goes the target. I am hooked. A few more shots - I had no idea such guns existed.

Next I am offered Dale Montbriand's AZ-modified FWB P70. With its multi-colored laminate stock, gleaming air reservoir and barrel shroud and its huge Nightforce 36 scope, this was by far the most sophisticated shooting instrument I had ever seen or held. Dale gave me a brief lesson on the rifle and I was ready to go. I pushed the charging slide forward with my thumb. The loading gate popped up and I loaded the oiled pellet into the breech. I closed the loading gate and settled the rifle on my arm. Putting my eye to the ocular of the big Nightforce, I was stunned by the brightness and clarity of the image and by the unusual NP-2 reticle. The 36 power scope magnified every beat of my heart, but I eventually got the target to stop moving - mostly. I gently touched the trigger and with a gentle puff of air a hole suddenly appeared in the paper target exactly where I had been aiming. I was stunned, speechless, amazed, in love. I fired a few more shots and sadly gave the rifle back to Dale. I took some shots with Karen Skogen's Mako and watched Rod Skogen making long shots with an RWS/Diana 75to1 ten-meter gun. Karen offered me a sandwich. Who are these people, I thought to myself - they make me shoot their guns and, as if that's not enough, offer me food too! I felt instantly at home and knew that this was the shooting discipline for me.

Now, how to get started? As luck would have it, my 40th birthday was coming up in early 1999 and my wife Jennifer was looking for a special gift for me. I told her that what I would really like for my birthday is a field target rifle and scope. This sounded like a great idea to her, and so the search began.

As much as I loved the precharged guns, I was not ready to make that commitment. From what I had been reading, it also seemed like starting with a spring gun would lay a good foundation for any type of shooting. Once I had made that decision, I started my search for information on which piston gun to buy. I had the public library's copy of The Airgun Digest, the Beeman catalog #22, and a bit of information from various airgun websites that were out there at the time, primarily The Airgun Letter and Brad Troyer's American Airguns site. The obvious choice, based on match results, was the Air Arms TX-200. The folks at MAFTA were of the same opinion. Being a bit of an aesthetic, the rather ungainly looks of the TX really turned me off. The HW-97 in the Beeman catalolog, however, looked both beautiful and "correct." Fortunately for me, Straight Shooters in Saint Cloud had recently begun to sell the TX-200. I contacted them and learned they had both the TX and the 97 in stock, so up to Saint Cloud I went.

Once I got to Straight Shooters and saw the rifles in person, aesthetics were no longer an issue - both were beautifully made and finished, and on an aesthetic basis I would be happy with either gun. I was also there to decide on a scope. My scope choice had been narrowed to the Leupold 6.5-20X40 EFR and the Bausch & Lomb Series 4000 6-24X40. We mounted the Leupold on the TX and the B&L on the HW. Looking through the scopes with both set at 20X made the scope decision easy - the crisp, clear image I saw through the Leupold sold me on it right away.

I had my scope, now I needed something to put it on. I went back and forth between the two rifles. First a few shots with one rifle in the sitting position, then a few shots with the other rifle from the same position. The same drill from the offhand position. Back to sitting. More standing. Both rifles shot very, very well. Each had features I liked, and each had features I didn't particularly care for. When it came right down to it, the TX stock seemed, for me anyway, to be a little more comfortable and a little more balanced. I brought the Air Arms-Leupold combination home through an ice storm.

OK, so now I have all winter to practice until the 1999 field target season starts. My intention is to put a box of Premiers through the gun and then return to Straight Shooters to check the gun's performance over their Oehler chronograph. The gun is more accurate than I thought possible. I got to the point where I assumed the gun was broken in and headed back to Saint Cloud.

I collected velocity readings for a variety of pellets and brought the data home to plug into a ballistics program. My heart sank when I read the results: my beautiful, accurate, allegedly-FAC rifle was shooting at 11.2 foot-pounds. Bear in mind that at this point I had not yet participated in an actual field target match - all I knew was what I had read: that shooting at twelve foot-pounds is a completely different game than shooting at full power. Now it turns out that my rifle isn't even shooting at twelve foot-pounds. I spoke with the guys at Straight Shooters and explained my concerns. Their response was exemplary: you paid for a full power gun and we'll do what it takes to get you a full power gun.

They were expecting a shipment of guns later that week, and when the guns arrived they called me and invited me up to try the new ones. When I got there and tried the new guns, there was a noticeable difference between my gun and the new guns. Testing

the guns over the chronograph confirmed the differences in performance. They told me I could keep my gun or take one of the new ones. I took one of the new TXs home. Had I known then what I know now, would have held on to that original TX-200. I have since owned and shot a number of TX-200s, an none of them has equaled that first one in accuracy and consistency.

Anyway, I practiced indoors all winter in anticipation of the April opening of the MAFTA season. All sorts of things conspired to keep me from the first few matches, but I did make it out to a practice session. At that session, Rod and Karen told me about Ron Carlson's upcoming Frost-Bite Open. I telephoned Ron and told him I would be there for my first-ever field target match.

I showed up at the Flood ranch on Saturday morning, completely terrified, but also very excited. I met Ron, and the first thing he said to me was," Well, you picked a good one for your first match - this will be as tough a course as you'll ever shoot." Great, I thought to myself, I'd be lucky to hit a single target.

The Saturday morning course consisted of typical animal targets set mostly on elevated locations. Always considerate and encouraging of new shooters, Ron squaded himself with me and Fran Hufnagel who was also participating in his first match, but with his new Daystate CR-97. Much to my relief, I did manage to knock down a few targets. At the end of the morning match, I found myself in last place, but not all that far behind Fran so I felt pretty good about my performance.

The Saturday afternoon match was fluorescent geometric targets, two of which were placed way up the side of a hill and the rest out in the open at longer ranges. For the afternoon match, I was squaded with John Webber and Kim Lundin. Both John and Kim were shooting TXs, and I learned a lot about shooting springers from both John and Kim. The longer distances proved to be much more difficult for me than the short and medium range targets.

I returned for Sunday's match, which was set up as the most difficult course. The firing line was along the road in the hot, glaring sun, while the targets were set in a thick, dark pine forest at typical field target distances. The targets were again geometric shapes, but these were painted black with black kill zones. The combination of black targets, dark settings and harsh sun-lit shooting positions was brutal. I struggled through the course, but thoroughly enjoyed the steak dinner that followed. I ended up being third of three piston guns, but I had a great time. Rod showed me how to take my gun apart in order to remove some of the factory grease that was causing dieseling. Once I saw how easy it was to disassemble a TX, I didn't hesitate to do it myself. I've been mixing and matching parts ever since – always searching for the perfect combination.

I finished the rest of the MAAFTA season, and then became heavily involved with the planning of the 2000 World and US National Championships that were to be held in Minnesota the following fall. In late 1999, MAFTA wanted a way to keep the field target community informed about the 2000 Worlds/Nationals. I foolishly volunteered to get the information out onto the Web. One thing led to another and http://mafta.homestead.com was the result - I've been taking care of the club website ever since. At the end of the 2000 season, I was elected president of the Minnesota Airgun Field Target Association.

In 2001, I was asked to take over the reins of this esteemed publication from the capable hands of Rodney Boyce, who had served as 'interim' editor for the last five years or so. We discussed the editor transition at the 2001 Nationals in Atlanta and over the course of a bunch of telephone conversations. My first issue was the Volume 12, Issue 1 - January/February 2002. During the first several months of editing/publishing this newsletter, I often received calls from Rodney offering ideas, suggestions and comments. After a year-and-a-half though, Rodney no longer calls. Either he feels the News is in good hands, or he has given up completely!

So here I am, nearly five years down the road – President of MAFTA, Editor of the AAFTA News, a constant fixture at our local matches, and a recent purchaser of my very own precharged rifle, scuba tank, etc...

Looks like I'm sucked in and here to stay!

AAFTA Swap Shop

For Sale: HW-80 Excellent Condition \$300 or best offer. Call Tom at 901-872-0488

For Sale: Falcon FN19 PTL .177/.22 Ten Meter/Field Target, Pre-charged Air Rifle. Korick regulator, match trigger, laminated stock, adj. butt plate, 10 meter sights. Flawless. \$950 + shipping. Call Richard Viard at 269-345-7488. Leave message.

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