

AAFTA NEWS



AMERICAN AIRGUN FIELD TARGET ASSOCIATION

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THE HIGH ROAD

by Mel Bomke

I saw a license plate the other day that said "1 1der ". Didn't think much of it at the time, but it stuck with me. There is an awe and wonder (1 der) in this life that I aspire towards. A personal goal is to taste it in as many of my remaining days as I can. Some days are successful, some are not. Awe, dignity, integrity, and inspiration. What does it mean?

Some recent events in our sport have caused me to rethink some previously decided issues in my mind. For an example, I will use the straps or shooting harnesses. Why does someone choose to use one? What does it mean to me, and how does it affect my participation in this sport? What advantage does it afford a shooter, and how does that affect me? And ultimately, what is the purpose of life?

Not to pick on straps specifically, but they make a handy example. First, why does someone use a harness? The obvious answer is to be able to sit still, shoot better, be more competitive, and increase the chances of winning. We all came to win, didn't we? Didn't we? I mean, we all talk about the camaraderie and stuff, but we still want

the plaque. So how does my brain process this quest? Years ago I began hanging hooks and cleats off my gunstock. My theory was to find the most stable position I could sit in, and then mate the gun to that as solidly as possible while still being able to look through the scope. Shooters laughed at me then, but now pay big bucks for the same crap on their guns. It simply works. The strap is just an extension of this line of thought. We pursue what we think will help us shoot better, be it a new trigger pad, scope, or tricked-out custom rifle. Our sport has very little legislation regulating the equipment we use.

Golf, on the other hand, is a much more regulated sport. A driver, for example, has an upper allowable limit of rebound it can impart to the ball. Years ago it was arbitrarily set at 77%. That is, a golf club head moving at 100 miles per hour will send the ball off at 77 mph.

As technology improved with metal drivers, the limit was changed to 83%. Now, there is a new \$500.00 driver made by Callaway that far exceeds that limit, but it isn't sanctioned by the USGA. Arnold Palmer went way out on a limb then got caught in crossfire when

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AAFTA Member Clubs

- AA:** Airgunning Atlanta. Atlanta, Georgia
Ken Hughes 770-445-0789
<http://www.gajobs.com/airguns>
- AOA:** Airgunners of Arizona. Mesa, Arizona
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- BAC:** Bayou Airgun Club. Baton Rouge, Louisiana
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- BAGA:** Badgerland Air Gun Assoc., Bristol, Wisconsin
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- CASA:** California Airgun Shooters Association
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- DIFTA:** Damascus Maryland Chapter of the Isaak
Walton League of America
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- DJMC:** Delran Junior Marksman. Delran, New Jersey
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- EFTCC:** Eastern Field Target Competitor's Club
Wappingers Falls, New York
<http://www.bestweb.net/~ateamray>
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- GIFT** Grand Isle Field Target, Grand Isle, VT
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- MSTS:** Mid South Tri-State Airgunners Association
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- MSFTA:** Mountain State Field Target Association
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- SSG:** Single Shot Group, South Lyon, Michigan
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- WWCCA:** Western Wayne County Conservation Association
Rick Stoutenberg 734-261-1683
- Associate Member Clubs**
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Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
Fred Truscott 519-985-0042

Where to Find it!

FT Air Rifles

Airgun Express (Mako/HW, TX200) 800-896-4867
 Airguns Alaska - - - - -907-522-5900
 AirgunsofArizona(Daystate,AirArms,Beeman) 602-461-1113
 Beeman Precision Airguns (Mako/HW77 & 97) 800-227-2744
 Benson's Airgun Options - - -888-952-1231
 Burroughs International (Career) - 310-457-5932
 Ken's Airsports (TX200-) - - -419-837-6459
 Mac-1 (Steyr) - - - - -310-327-3581
 Marksman (Marksman 61) - -714-989-7535
 Mance Etheredge (FWB P70 FT) - 303-331-0471
 Pelaire Products (Whiscombe)561-439-0691
 Spot-On Arms - - - - -651-429-1139
 Storey "Custom Shop" - - - -317-925-5544
 Tom's Precision Airguns - - -509-535-7993
 Wade Sutherland- - - - -622-429-4663
 W.W. Mann International - - -317-241-6011

Airgun Accessories

Airgun Gear - - - - -509-535-7993
 Precision Airgun Ltd. - - - -562-430-9183

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
 Pelaire Products - - - - -561-439-0691

Spot-On Arms - - - - -612-429-1139

Field Targets

Pelaire Products - - - - -561-439-0691
 Precision Airgun Ltd. - - - -562-430-9183
 Rick Stoutenburg - - - - -313-261-1683
 Ron Juneau's Cajun Targets 225-261-7435
 - - - - - juneaur@bellsouth.net
 Spot-On Arms - - - - -612-429-1139

Gas Rams

Dave Slade's Airgunwerks - 714-891-6801

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Airgun Express - - - - -800-896-4867
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 Beeman Precision Airguns - 800-227-2744
 Pelaire Products - - - - -561-439-0691

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 Airguns of Arizona - - - - -602-461-1113
 Beeman Precision Airguns - 800-227-2744
 Mac-1 - - - - -310-327-3581
 Marksman - - - - -714-989-7535
 Pelaire Products (Beeman-Crosman) - 561-439-0691
 Spot-On Arms (Crosman Premier) 612-429-1139

Publications

AAFTA News - - - - -662-429-4663
 and AAFTA "Clubs & Shooters Hand-
 book"
 Airgun Digest 3rd Edition - - 800-247-4876
 Airgun Letter - - - - -410-730-5496
 Airgun Revue- - - - -410-730-5496
 U.S. Airgun Magazine- - - - 800-247-4867

Regulators

The "A" Team - - - - -845-896-9792
 - - - - - and 914-277-4309

Joe Korick - - - - -360-576-8643

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 Dave Slade's Airgunwerks - 714-376-6981
 Ken's Airsports - - - - -419-837-6459
 Mac-1 (Crosman/Benjamin/Sheridan) - 310-327-3581

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Airgun Express - - - - -800-896-4867
 Beeman Precision Airguns - 800-227-2744
 Mance Etheredge (Nightforce 36X) 303-331-0471
 Spot-On Arms - - - - -612-429-1139
 Storey "Custom Shop" (Custom 36X/6-24X) 317-925-5544

Scope Knobs and/or Levels

The "A" Team - - - - -845-896-9792
 - - - - - and 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

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 Airguns of Arizona - - - - -602-461-1113
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 Mac-1 (Droopers)- - - - -310-327-3581
 Pelaire Products - - - - -561-439-0691
 Precision Air Gun LTD. (Bkl Mounts)- - 562-430-9183
 Spot-On Arms - - - - -612-429-1139

Silhouette Targets

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Stocks

Wade Sutherland - - - - -662-429-4663

Video's

Pellethead - - - - -800-213-2088

Match Calendar

July

Sat. 14th AA, BAGA, CASA
 Sun. 15th MAFTA
 Sat. 21st DIFTA
 Sun. 22nd CASA
 Sun 29th BAGA

August

Sat. 4th EFTCC
 Sat. 11th AA, CASA
 Sat. 18th BAGA
 Sun. 19th MAFTA
 Sun. 26th CASA

September

Sat. 8th AA, BAGA (2nd Annual Regionals)
 Sun 8th OAFTSA (Ohio State Championship)
 Sat. 15th CASA, DIFTA
 Sun. 16th MAFTA
 Sun. 23rd CASA
 Sun. 30th EFTCC

October

Fri. 5th }
 Sat. 6th } **AA (National Championship)**
 Sun. 7th }
 Sat. 13th AA, CASA, DIFTA (State Championships)

Sun. 14th MAFTA (Minn. State Championships)

Sun. 28th CASA

November

Sat. 10th AA, CASA, DIFTA
 Sun. 18th CASA, EFTCC (New York State Championship.)

December

Sat. 8th AA, CASA
 Sun. 16th CASA

"The High Road", continued from page 1

he endorsed that particular driver. It allowed the average player to hit longer drives -- made him more competitive. It can't be used in "tournament play" but Arnold's reasoning was that it allowed the average weekend player to have a more enjoyable game without threatening the pros. But the USGA suspended ties with him over it, then quickly reversed itself when a public outcry ensued.

So, back to the straps. If it allows the "average" shooter to hit more, and be more competitive, how does that affect the pro's? That leads to the next point. If I view every shooter as my competition, as someone standing between the prize and me, then I don't want him or her to use a strap. Period. But I'm sorry. First, there isn't any money or sponsorship at stake here, and secondly, I have known most of you guys for years, and view you as friends, not competition. We all have had our good days, and we all have had our bad days. There isn't a single Tiger Woods in the crowd. (And if anyone ever seems to dominate a couple of matches, just give them a spring gun and watch them.) We come to the match with varying levels of preparedness, see our friends, show off our newest gizmos, shoot at little dots, and wonder why it's so easy on Thursday and Friday, and so hard on Saturday and Sunday.

A little anecdote: I was at a match in Hernando in May. I experienced successes, shortcomings, and inspiration there. A microcosm of life. I would like to share.

A success: For years I have hated standing shots and been verbal about it. To me, it was those 8 shots that decided who won the match. Time and again, it was proved to be true. In New Orleans once, I tied the previous course record of 98. I hit 97 out of 97 sitting shots -- didn't miss a single one -- missed two out of three standing shots at 14 yards, however, and went home without placing. Justifiably not fair. I wanted standers to either be eliminated, or set out 1/4 inch at 40 yards. Then, something in me changed. On a trip to Colorado Springs, I went to the Olympic Shooting Facility and spoke with a coach. I asked for and got some basic off-hand instructions, and

some motivation. And I decided to practice. So at the Spring National match in Hernando, on Saturday, I hit 4 for 4. First time ever. Success. But the success, you see, wasn't in hitting the four shots, but in changing my attitude. Rather than advocate changing the game to suit my strengths and weaknesses anymore, I decided to change myself to be able play the game as it is. If those shots decide the match, let me decide to learn how to shoot them rather than miss and cry unfair.

A simple, but very profound shift. I may have a big ego, but it is not an egocentric universe after all. The world does not revolve around me.

Shortcoming: On Sunday, I was shooting neck and neck with Steve Schulz. Either of us could win it. But I was tired. I had to work at every hit, and Steve seemed in a zone. Sure enough, our last lane to finish on was the standing lane. I had checked them out earlier and knew I could see them both kneeling - I'm much more stable in that position. And I was tired. Last lane, four shots, Steve is leading by one point. I'm up first. The level of competition and focus that day told me I should stand to shoot them, but I took them kneeling. Justifiable. Hit all four. First time I ever went 8 for 8 on standing lanes (sort of). It was over. But it was a bit hollow.

Inspiration: So now Steve just had to hit all four and he was the outright winner. Miss one, and there's a shoot-off with me. He looked at them from a kneeling position, considered it, changed his mind, stood, and took all four. The hard way. He inspired me. I chose the safe way; he took the champion's way. Had he missed one, I don't think I would have shot the tiebreaker with him. In my mind, he was the winner even before he shot them. The high road.

Inspiration: Saturday. Squaddied with Bob Wiener. Standing lanes again. Bob's up. Now, I've known Bob for a long time. He's had his share of medical problems. Twisted up neck. Back. He's a wreck. Way I figure it, he has no business trying to hold up a 14-pound gun cantilevered off his arms on an off-hand lane. Just doesn't make sense. So here he is, moaning and cussing more than a \$2 whore. Has me in

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stitches laughing. Dave Slade is next to us. We can't keep it together; poor Bob is excruciating pain personified. I can't stand the noise any longer so I ask him if he will just let me mark the zeros, he can put the gun down and it will be over.

Not an entire heartbeat passed before he snaps, "No, I'll shoot them". From the conviction, I suspect I could have offered to mark him two hits and two misses to stop, and he still would have said the same thing. Three hits. All four? Jesus in the desert with the devil offering him the world! No dice! He came to shoot. Moan, groan, whatever, but don't change the rules for me. A moment of brilliance and inspiration within an agonizing shooter -- my friend.... The high road.

Inspiration: Rodney fell on his gun again while trying to get up. Second time in two matches. Cuss, moan, bitch. Pick it up, dust it off, walk to the sight-in lanes, and pick up the pieces. Self-DNF. No shots into the tree to re-zero. No freebies. No special consideration asked for. A spark of inspiration in there. Brilliant, yet normal, The high road.

Inspiration: Saturday. Match is going to start. Alan Otsuka's plane is late, and he doesn't make it in time, no sleep, been up all night. Happy, cheerful, laughing, doesn't ask for any special consideration, no special late start for him. Enjoys himself, visits with his friends, and shoots on Sunday. Simply put. The high road.

We have a choice. I have a choice. The competition is not in my friends. The competition is between my ears. The shooting strap does not go there. The strap just holds up some other guy so he can play the game. This story isn't about a strap.

As Robert Crocker said, "Sure I want to beat you, but I want to beat you at your best". That says a lot to me. One, I want you to be your best for you, and two, I want the inspiration from you at your best to drive me to excellence. And then we both win. If I require inspiration from you, all the powers of the universe must align themselves to make it so. That's the way it's wired. Such is the power of faith. Brilliance will be found in the ordinary.

I measure it a success, personally, if I finish a two-day match without a mental error i. e. no pellet, two pellets, pull through the trigger, etc. I consider it a success if I can be in a headspace that rejoices in your hits on a hard target -- if I give more than I take. To me, it's not just about pellets.

Not the 16th inch groups. Not at the matches at least. It's about the inspiration, the awe, the something incredible, within the ordinary. All of us have been both the inspiration, and the inspired in this game. I measure it a successful day when I get to witness it. It makes little difference what is actually happening, it is how I perceive it that really counts.

I knew a shooter in a wheel chair. He sort of gave up the sport when he could no longer walk, then decided he missed the company and started shooting again, out of the chair. He was feeling good about himself again, but told me he didn't want to compete like that because the chair was so stable for him to shoot from. He felt it was an unfair advantage, and other shooters might complain if he started winning everything, which he felt he could. I told him to go ahead and win the National Championship first, and then he could decide if he wanted to accept or refuse the trophy.

But time ran out for him before he was faced with that dilemma. I consider this the high road. When adversity no longer is perceived as such. It becomes an opportunity, and it builds character.

We all have the ability for self-governing in this sport. We are human and goof up, but we have the ability to pick up the pieces and try again. Our hearts are in the right place. The rules just define the game we have agreed to play. It's important: we have agreed to play. If a time comes when you or I change our minds and don't agree anymore, when we don't want to play by the rules as agreed, I hope that you or I don't try to change the game to suit our personal preferences. Then, we all loose. I hope we have the dignity to leave on the high road, but I also hope it never comes to that. The attitude adjustment is so small to make and so rich once made.

- *Mel Bomke*

BAGA - Badgerland AirGun Association

2001 Season Opener

Field Target Match

May 19, 2001

The day turned out to be a picture perfect day for our first Field Target Match of 2001. The weather was most cooperative with mild temperatures and bright sunny skies. However, there were some of those "whirly wind gods" on a few of the longer lanes in the wooded course. The turnout from our membership was very strong with several of the shooters attending their first FT Match. This is a young club and we like to see our membership grow. The course was still a little "green" but should be up to snuff in the next couple of weeks, especially if the weedwacker stays running. The target layout was a little tough for a first shoot, but we'll make efforts to correct the course and give it a more balanced design for the next round. I estimate that it would have scored above a 40 on the Troyer Difficulty Chart.

The course was 60 shots spread out on 25 lanes. Targets ranged from 10.5 yards to one set at 55+ yards. Kill zones ranged from 3/8" to 1-1/2" with majority being in the 3/4" range. We had 2 off-hands and several up in trees.

The scores were spread out quit a bit, which reflects the course' difficulty as well as the new shooters and first match jitters. Also, as a first, the new Zasadny Modified

Steyr LG100 recorded its first official win. It was also good to see an old venerable springer do so well on this course...an R-1 with an 18 power scope...I was impressed. So you can see that anyone can come out and enjoy a day at a FT event with what ever you have in your gun closet.

Awards were presented at the conclusion of the event. The top three positions received Award Certificates and the first place position also received coupons for a free future FT Match entry. In addition to these awards, each participant was entered in a random raffle for prizes that were donated by club members. These included a box of pellets, an indoor/outdoor thermometer and a \$25 gift certificate to a national airgun supplier. These raffles will be standard fare for our matches and all attendees will be included in the drawing. In addition to the prizes, members provided snacks, drinks and fresh fruit to help re-energize the shooters after the match. Thanks again to all the members for their donations. Again, congratulations to all winners.

Reported by Alex Modic

Open - Shooter	Score	Gun	ScopePellet	
1. Allen Zasadny	55	ZMSteyrLG100	BSA 10-50	CPH
2. Don Carkhuff	46	ZM2002		Nightforce 36CPH
3. Vlad Berchanskiy	42	ZM2002		Burris 8-32CPH
Alex Yamstun	40	CRX		BSA 10-50CPH
Rick Zerby	34	CRX		Burris 8-32CPL
Bill Slater	32	CR-94		Burris 8-32CPH
Alex Modic	20	NJR-100		Tasco 8-40CPH
Dennis Taki	12	ZMSteyrLG100	BSA 10-50	CPH
Spring - Shooter	Score	Gun	ScopePellet	
1. Brandon Carroll	23	HW R-1		Simmons 6-18CPL
2. Ron Weber	13	TX-200		BSA 10-50CPL

DIFTA MATCH, MAY 12, 2001

OPEN CLASS

Joe Harrison	CR-X	Nightforce 36	CP 10.5	711
JC Brown	FN-19	B&L 4200 6-24	CP 10.5	632
Steve Schulz	RN-10Ti	Burris 8-32	CP 7.9	623
Hans Apelles	NJR100	B&L 8-32	CP 7.9	61
Earl Brooks	NJR100	Leupold 18-40	CP 10.5	59
Werner Wicha	RN-10Ti	Burris 8-32	CP 7.9	52
Sam Ventura	Harrier	Leupold 6.5-20	CP 10.5	49
Bill Weinreich	CR-X	BSA 10-50	CP 10.5	49
Tom Gaylord	Harrier	Tasco CS 8-40	CP 7.9	46

PISTON CLASS

Bill Lomeli	HW-97	Burris 8-32	CP 7.9	581
Mark Sivatko	HW-97	Swift 8-32	CP 7.9	502
Stan Lipinski		TX200SR	Leupold 6.5-20	CP 7.9443
Michael Tinsley	HW-77	B&L 8-32	CP 7.9	42
Karl Krchma	TX200	Bushnell 6-18	CP	37

STANDING CLASS

Ray Apelles	NJR100	Nightforce 36	CP 7.9	391
Dale Benson	R-9	B&L 4200 6-24	CP	262

To remind us just how cooperative with our FT matches the weather here usually is, the day was forecast with a good chance of showers, and it was pretty cloudy (of the darker kind) during the entire match. At one time it actually did rain a few drops, but nothing serious and shooting continued without any swimming lessons. Little wind but from varying directions made holdoff for the long shots a bit of a guessing game where the wind actually came from.

Again, we had some targets that were really easy (although this time no juniors came to our match) and the average difficulty was 26 with the average distance just over 27 yards. Joe Harrison came within one point of clearing the course! Now that is impressive shooting, congratulations to Joe for his outstanding win! Not many excuses needed for his performance, but we others had plenty of explanations for all those misses.

MARION COUNTY FISH & GAME ASSOC.

RANGE HUNTER COURSE AND FIELD TARGET MATCH RESULTS JUNE 2, 2001

We had a small but very competitive turnout for both the Hunter and the FT matches this past Saturday. The weather was predicted to be wet, but as it turned out we had no rain at all until several hours after the last shot was fired! Of course that made us all happy! Warren Williamson, Tom Timon and Thom Grosse all made the trip from Ohio, Chris Oldfield made the trip from Kentucky. Jim Bauserman made over a 2 hour trip and Dean Bowling a new shooter with us, drove a ways too! Thanks guys for supporting us!

As in the past we set up the Hunter course and fired it first then rearranged most of the targets and the firing lines to shoot the regular FT course. This lets all of us get more shooting in and makes it easier to set up for two different styles of shooting. I did make a mistake and forgot to move the firing line on one of the nine FT lanes, this caused two shooters (still on the course) to have to re-shoot that lane. Sorry guys, I thought I had it all handled. This setup I.E. target arrangement, KZ size, and distance to the targets seemed to work out very well as you can see from the following scores, both the Hunter and the FT had very similar scores throughout (for the newbies Hunter is all Offhand shooting, 9x Max on the scope, no rangefinding or clicking and targets set from 10 to 40 yards out). After going over the scores from April's shoot I felt I had set that Hunter course up to difficult and it needed to be changed for more shooting enjoyment out of more shooters. I feel I changed it just right, check the first 5 places in both Hunter & FT and you will see what I mean. Both courses had a possible of 54 points. Thanks for shooting with us and keep in mind the next match is scheduled for July 8th, same format. see ya next time..... *Anthony*

Hunter Course Results

Shooter	Score	Gun	Scope	Pellet
1. Warren Williamson	49	BSA S-10 ZM	Leupold 4.5x14x	Premier 10.5
2. Dave Dostie	43	Daystate CR-X	B and L 6-24x	Premier 10.5
3. Anthony Storey	42	Hammerli AR-50 10M	Sim. 6.5-20x	Premier 7.9
4. Tom Timon	40	TX-200 SR	Sim. ProAir 6-18x	Premier 7.9
5. Don Hyfield	37	AA Pro-Target	Tasco 8-40x	Premier 10.5
6. Dean Bowling 20	RWS 45	Bushnell 4-12x	Premier 7.9	
7. Ron Burnett DNF	RWS 36	Bushnell 6-18x	Premier 7.9	

Regular Field Target Results

1. Warren Williamson	49	Ans. 2002 ZM	NightForce 36x	Premier 10.5
2. Don Hyfield (1)	43	AA Pro-Target	Tasco 8-40x	Premier 10.5
3. Chris Oldfield	43	Ans. 2002 ZM	Tasco SS-20	Premier 10.5
4. Dave Dostie	42	Daystate CR-X	B and L 6-24x	Premier 10.5
5. Tom Timon	38	FWB P-70 FT	Hakko 30x	Premier 10.5
6. Anthony Storey	34	AA TX-200	B and L 8-32x	Premier 7.9
7. Jim Bauserman	32	Daystate Harrier	B and L 6-24x	Premier 7.9
8. Thom Grosse	24	Ans. 2002 ZM	Swift 6-24x	Kodiak Match
9. Dean Bowling (2)	14	RWS 45	Bushnell 4-12x	Premier 7.9

(1) Don Hyfield won second place in a shootoff with Chris Oldfield. (2) Dean Bowling shot all shots offhand in the regular field target match.

Grand Isle Field Target

Grand Isle, Vermont • June 10, 2001

Ten shooters joined me for the inaugural GIFT match. The weather was 'Vermont' perfect with little wind, bright sun, singing birds and a minimum of mosquitoes. We had several first time FT shooters as well. With the usual FT spirit, those without guns were accommodated by helpful loans. Robert came down from Canada to give FT a try and did well with Ray's NJR. I expect he will do even better when his new ZM Steyr arrives. Paul loaned Hardy his Huntsman, Jon shared his FN19 with Tay and Chris used my ProTarget.

The 50 shot course was laid out in the, somewhat dense, woods in my back yard with a fairly good mix of targets in the shade and sun. I think everyone's favorite target was the .75" woodpecker 20 feet up in a tree. It was only about 14 yards out making for a steep shot!

I didn't place a squirrel target very well, making him near bullet proof. Paul was able to knock it down once with the 19ft/lb Huntsman but no one else was able to get it down with a clean hit. So two points were awarded to everyone. There were no cold lines.

Unfortunately Jon, Hardy and Tay had other commitments and were unable to complete the course.

I'd like to thank all those that came out to shoot. I really appreciate it! I also have a much better appreciation for all the time and effort that goes into running a match. My hat's off to all those other match directors out there.

- Brian S. Johnson

Open Class

<u>Shooter</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Gun</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>
Ray Apelles	49	NJR 100	Night Force 36x	7.9gr CP
Hans Apelles	45	NJR 100	B&L 8-32x40	7.9gr CP
Brian S. Johnson *	44	AA ProTarget	BSA 10-50x60	10.5gr CP
Paul Bishop *	44	Huntsman	Swift 8-32x50	10.5gr CP
Robert Barton +	39	NJR 100	Night Force 36x	7.9gr CP
Chris Macaig +3	8	AA ProTarget	BSA 10-50x60	10.5gr CP
Jonathan Wells +	DNF	FN19	B&L 6-24x40	10.5 CP
Hardy Macia +	DNF	Huntsman	BSA 24x50	10.5 CP
Taylan Harris +	DNF	FN19	B&L 6-24x40	.22 14.3gr CP

Piston Class

<u>Shooter</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Gun</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Pellet</u>
Billy Lomeli	32	R9VK	44 Mag @ 18x	7.9gr CP
Andrew Hernandez	31	HW97	B&L 6-24x40	7.9gr CP

**After Shoot-off*

+First time FT Shooters

<http://communities.msn.com/GrandIsleFT>

What is the "ULTIMATE" FT scope for a PCP?

There is no such scope, because it depends on your personal taste

Some will say that the 36x Nightforce is the best for FT. Good optics and reliable mechanics, but it is 36x fixed. If ever it gets too dark or - more likely - you can't find the \$%^&%\$ target no matter how much you try, that makes you wish for a zoom scope. Of all the scopes I have seen in FT so far, it is the most accurate for rangefinding in the troublesome 45-55 yard range, because of the two full revolutions you have on the front bell. But then again, people have been known to miss shots in matches because they confused the two possible readings for the distance. And then there is the 1/8 min. elevation adjustment turret that needs getting used to, because it too takes more than a full revolution for most trajectories between 10 and 55 yards. (There are also newer, zoom Nightforces I don't know much about.) Main problem with the 36x Nightforce is that it is no longer manufactured and used ones go for around \$1000 and don't last long in the classifieds.

Then there are the big, boosted sidewheel zoom Leupolds going up to 40x and 50x. Never used one, because I didn't like the flip-down lens for shots closer than 17 yards and people say they are temperature sensitive. I do know for sure that they are expensive. The big sidewheels some have are nice, though.

Or how about the Burris 8-32 that so many use? Nice, clear optics and more affordable, but also a bit temperature sensitive and by far not as precise in rangefinding as the Nightforce 36x. Good mechanics on the turrets and probably the best scope to start out with.

Or the rather new, big BSA sidewheel scope? 10-50x60 sounds like a dream come true. Big and heavy, naturally, but some have very clear optics and allow for precise rangefinding, close to but still not quite as good as the Nightforce 36x. But it has a zoom and the sidewheel is really nice, since you don't have to put the gun down to read the distance - helps when time is a problem. The higher power should make rangefinding easier as well. But it has 1/8 minute elevation adjustments - makes the adjustment more accurate of you really have that fine a scale (I do), but

again, takes more than one revolution of the turret with all the possibilities to miss a shot.

The good, ole Tasco Custom shop 8-40 sidewheel scope could just be a candidate if we are talking about the older ones with good, clear optics. The newer ones are pretty bad at higher magnifications. Mechanically very reliable with 1/4 minute elevation adjustments and a standard "bigger" sidewheel that is still not quite big enough and often sloppy on the newer ones.

B&L 6-24 and the newer B&L 8-32? Excellent optics and the people who use them are sometimes a bit fanatic about their B&Ls. I don't know much else about them and haven't really used either of them.

I think I covered the majority of scopes you will find on the open class equipment lists of major matches. I do own myself the Tasco 8-40 (one of the bad ones), a Nightforce 36x and recently bought a BSA 10-50 (one of the good ones). After getting used to it and having learned to avoid mistakes, the Nightforce certainly is right among the top scopes, no question. The BSA looks very promising and I will give it half a year of getting used to it before I make a judgement whether it is a better FT scope than the Nightforce 36x.

Another issue is the reticle in the scope. A nice, not too cluttered reticle with subtensions or dots at known, precise intervals does help a lot in holding off for wind and some people use markings along the vertical crosshair as secondary aimpoints for close shots to avoid having to turn the elevation turret more than one revolution. Fortunately, the reticle can often be changed and sometimes even fully customized. Then there are illuminated reticles that some people find important and a big help; I haven't needed mine in a match yet.

Have your pick, but more money doesn't necessarily mean that you'll get a better scope. Other FT shooters will certainly give their opinion, which will be different from mine. Just like when you are in the market for a gun, best advice is: Go to a big match and ask people to show you their stuff and try it out for yourself.

- Steve Schulz

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Jim Everett

May 5, 2001

Rick Stoutenburg welcomed 13 of us to the first Field Target match at WWCCA for the 21st century. Upon arrival the first thing I noted was the air gun range had been reduced from the 55-60 yard configuration we have known for some years now to a much reduced yardage of about 30-35 yards. Later in the morning we were told the airgun range is no longer viable and we would have to use a different practice area in the future. I expect to see us in the 100 yard range until our brand new facilities are ready for us in a couple of months. From what I hear we'll be very pleased with the results and will have a place to be proud to have our local and regional matches.

We welcome 4 new shooters to our ranks today. Two father and son teams. William and young Matt Dolson and Eric and dad, Fritz Sanders. Eric placed 3rd in the B flight. He is off to a good start. The others all shot as non competitors. We finished a rather easy course in about 2 1/2-3 hours and just got the targets all pulled and put away when the rains came. Therefore we did not have the tie breaking shoot offs. Good timing, Rick.

60 SHOT MATCH

MATCH WINNER

Rick Smelko	56	93.33%	ProTarget	CP 10.5	Tasco 10x50
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A FLIGHT

Ken Reeves*	53	88.33	TX200	CP 7.9	Burris 8x32
Rick Nowak	53	88.33	NJR100	Barracuda	Niteforce 8x40
Dan Kleiner*	51	85.00	TX200	CP 7.9	Burris 8x32
Rick Stoutenburg	51	85.00	TX200SR	CP 7.9	Leupold 6.5x20
Jim Sarnacki	50	83.33	NJR	CP 10.5	Hakko 8x40

B FLIGHT

Dan Mackay	46	76.66	HW77	CP 7.9	Simmons 6.5x20
Steve Sibal*	45	75.00	NJR100	CP 10.5	Tasco 8x40
Eric Sanders	45	75.00	Huntsman	Kodiak	Tasco 10x40
Jim Everett	38	63.33	TX200SR	CP 7.9	Simmons 6.5x20

Non Competitors: William Dolson, Matt Dolson, Fritz Sanders

* Designates place winner by flip of coin

May 27th, 2001 Match

A small turn out for this month's match. Ten competitors and 3 non-competitors had a pretty nice day for this match. I wasn't able to attend the match but did manage to get to the club just as things were wrapping up. Apparently we started at 10:00 AM after a sight in and practice period at our old practice area: the 100 yard range. The match was concluded and the course was taken down and put away by 1:30 PM. A short meeting about the declining number of shooters showing up at the monthly shoots was discussed by a number of us. We are thinking about mailing a copy of this report to the data base that Steve Sibal has developed over a period of time. Next month's match is scheduled for June 24th

60 Shot Match

MATCH WINNER

Bob Duncan	58	Anschutz 2025	.177	Niteforce36	CP10.5	96.67%
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A FLIGHT

Steve Sibal	54	NJR 100	.177	Tasco 8x40	CP10.5	90.00
Ken Reeves	53	TX200	.177	Burris 8x32	CP 7.9	88.33
Phil Herman52	CRX		.177	Hakko 8x32	CP 10.5	86.67
Rick Stoutenburg51	TX200SR		.177	Leupold 6.5x20	CP 7.9	85.00
Dan Kleiner50	TX200		.177	Burris 8x32	CP 7.9	83.33
Rick Nowak50	NJR 100		.177	Niteforce 8x40	Barracuda	83.33

B FLIGHT

Eric Sanders	44	HUNTSMAN	.22	Tasco	Kodiak	73.33
Larry Bowers	43	TX200 SR	.177	Leupold 18x36	CP 7.9	71.67
Tim Baker	38	TX200	.177	Swift 6x8x44	CP 7.9	63.33



MAY MATCH

The May 12 match was held at the Rio-Salado Sportsman's Club in Mesa with temperatures reaching a toasty 103° by the end of the match. There was a good turn out of 18 participants including Holly and Gary Sanders from London, England and Richard Shimizu from California. All three of the out of town guests and the Keisers had just returned from the Spring Nationals in Mississippi where Debbie was high lady. Congratulations Debbie.

The day was a challenge for the equipment and the shooter's skill as the wind picked up and the temperature rose. A saguaro cactus does not provide much shade, no

matter how many arms it has. Sandy and Larry tied with 35 out of 40, and a shoot off determined Larry was a better judge of the wind. In that shoot off, Larry made four amazing shots in a row in seemingly gale force winds on targets at 48 and 55 yards. It looks like the traveling trophy could be hanging out at Larry's place more often.

Be sure to make plans to attend the Arizona State Airgun Field Target Championships that will be held August 11-12. The location is 15 easy miles southeast of Flagstaff in the Mormon Lake area. Contact Larry Piercy (lpiercy@home.com) or Robert Buchanan (480) 461-1113 for maps and more information. Hope to see you there!

**Larry Piercy	35/40	Daystate CR-X	Hakko 8-32X	CP 14.3, .20
**Sandy Corcoran	35	Air Arms ProTarget	B&L 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Adam Singh	34	Daystate CR97SE	Hakko 8-23X	CP 10.5, .177
Bobby Corcoran	34	Daystate Huntsman	B&L 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Jeff Bates	32	Daystate Huntsman	Bushnell 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Robert Buchanan	32	Daystate CR-X	Hakko 30X	CP 10.5, .177
Greg Glover	30	Whiscombe JW75FB	Leupold 6.5-20X	CP 14.3, .22
Debbie Keiser	30	Daystate CR97SE	Burriss 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Brennan Moran	30	Daystate	Simmons 6X18	KM 21.3, .22
Dale Keiser	29	Daystate CR-X	Burriss 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Richard Shimizu	28	NJR	Tasco	CP 10.5, .177
Gary Sanders	24	Daystate CR-X	Hakko 30X	CP 10.5, .177
Holly Sanders	21	Daystate CR97	Burriss 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Carlos Garza	15	FX Tarantula	Bushnell 32X	KM 10.6, .177
* Sue Smith	8	HW 97	Bushnell 6-18X	CP 7.9, .177
* Andrew Buchanan	0	BSA	Bushnell 4	CP 14.3, .22
Steve Buchanan	DNF	Daystate CR97SE	B&L 6-24X	CP 10.5, .177
David Rabenivus	DNF	Daystate	Hakko 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177

* Piston Class

**Results after shoot-off



JUNE MATCH

Airgunners of Arizona held their June match in the cool (mid 70s) pines near Flagstaff. There was one new shooter and two juniors, so the course was set up in a little different format than usual. There were a total of 56 shots in 11 lanes. We still shot near to far, but a third target with a larger kill zone was placed mid-way in the odd lanes, for a total of 28 targets. The larger kills gave the new shooters some encouragement and the veterans some relief. The total scores were higher overall, but the match was still decided by a significant number of difficult shots. We will probably experiment more with this approach to try to make the sport more enjoyable for new shooters.

The wind was gusting and swirling in the trees so it turned out to be a fun, but challenging match, with no tied scores in the top 5 places. Four of us camped over another night and shot the course again on Sunday. Everyone improved their score the second day with Jeff being most improved by hitting 5 more than during competition.

The Mormon Lake area near Flagstaff is our summer shooting venue, so if anyone is visiting that area please come and join us. We have the area reserved for the second weekend of July, August, and September. The August shoot will be the Arizona State Field Target Championship.

Dale Keiser	50/56	Daystate CR97	Burris 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Debbie Keiser	48	Daystate CR97SE	Burris 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Jim Nelson Jr.	46	Daystate Huntsman	B&L 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Bobby Corcorran	45	Daystate Huntsman	B&L 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Robert Buchanan	44	Daystate CR-X	Hakko 30X	CP 10.5, .177
Jeff Bates	43	Daystate Huntsman	Bushnell 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Sandy Corcorran	43	Air Arms Pro Target	B&L 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Adam Singh	43	Daystate CR97SE	Hakko 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Jim Nelson Sir	41	Daystate Huntsman	B&L 8-32X	CP 10.5, .177
Greg Glover	37	Whiscombe JW75FB	Leupold 6.5-20X	CP 14.3, .22
Steve Montgomery	33	Steyer LG 100	B&L 6-24X	CP 10.5, .177
Daniel Montgomery	30	Daystate Harrier	Scope unknown	CP 10.5, .177
*Carlos Garza	27	Air Arms ProSport	Bushnell 32X	CP 7.9, .177
Leon	24	Daystate Huntsman	Scope unknown	CP 10.5, .177
*Andrew Buchanan	3	Crossman	Simmons 4X	CP 14.3, .22

* Piston Class

AAFTA Sanctioned Shoot Rules

Airguns: Any safe airgun of any configuration, shooting a single pellet.: Any airgun declared unsafe to people and/or property (including targets) by the match director will be barred from use. (revised 10/98)

Sights: Any form of sighting system may be used.: No separate device designed specifically for or used for range finding may be used to view the targets.

Ammunition: Any design of pellet that is completely constructed of lead or lead alloy only.

Targets: Silhouette fall-when-hit targets resettable from the firing point will be used. Silhouettes should be of typical airgun quarry.: Targets should not be closer than 10 yards, nor further than 55 yards from the firing point. (revised 4/00)

The match director should assure that shooting lanes and physical limits of the firing points are clearly defined.: A clear and unobstructed view of the hit zone must be afforded from at least one shooting position. (revised 4/00)

Shooters may reset their own targets once they are given permission from the scorer. (revised 1/98)

Scoring: Scoring shall be on the basis of one point for each "hit" and a zero for each miss.

A hit will be awarded when the target falls, any movement of the kill zone paddle which does not result in the target face plate falling will be recorded as a miss. (revised 4/00)

Any discharge without first announcing ones intension to deliberately discharge the gun [into the ground] shall be recorded as a miss. (revised 4/00)

Shooting Position: Any shooting position is allowed but the range may be set up to necessitate use of a forced position on some tar-

gets.: Rifle slings may be used.: No form of support from the ground for the airgun and/or body may be used (e.g., bipod, benchrest, chair, tree stump, etc.): A seat/prone mat used solely as a seat/mat may be used (see Rule 7): The airgun must be supported by the shooter's hand(s) and body. (revised 10/98)

Seating: The maximum height for any form of seat is 6 inches, measured with the shooter sitting on the seat.: The six inches is measured from the ground to the highest point of the seat.: The seat can only be used as a seat and not any other means of shooting support.

*Note: Variations of Rules 6 & 7 may be applied at the discretion of the match director in recognition of shooters desires, while ensuring that no unfair advantage is accrued. In the event an advantage is obtained, those shooters shall compete in a separate class for awards. (revised 10/98, 4/00)

Disputed Scores: Any challenge must be made to the marshal prior to leaving the target.: Any dispute not resolved at that time will be referred to the match director, whose decision will be final.

Penalties: The penalty for deliberate infraction of Shoot Rules, unsafe practice, ungentlemanly conduct, or any form of cheating is disqualification. (revised 10/98)

Target Sequence: The match director shall designate a sequence for shooting targets, by number, left-to-right, nearest-to-farthest etc.: A shot on a target out of sequence shall be recorded as a miss for the correct target in sequence. (revised 4/00)

If the wrong target was knocked over, it shall be reset and then shooting shall resume on the correct target in sequence. (revised 4/00)

Continued on page 15:

Continued from page 14:

Time per Shot: The Match Director and/or Marshal may impose a time limit per lane or per target either before or during a match. (revised 4/00)

The timing may start when the airgun is shouldered, when the shooter addresses the lane (i.e. sits down) or as specified by the Match Director. (revised 4/00)

Shots not executed within the time limit will be scored as misses. (revised 10/98)

Tied Scores: In the event of two (2) or more shooters tying for an award, a shoot-off, or other tie-breaking system will take place.

Match Director: In any matters arising and not covered by these rules, the match director's decision will be final.

As adopted by AAFTA on 6/15/90

FIELD TARGET ETIQUETTE

A definition of Field Target is that it is a freestyle shooting sport that is a viable alternative to the other existing disciplines such as Ten Meter, Silhouette and Benchrest. However, the foundation the sport of Field Target is based on is gentlemanly conduct and good sportsmanship without which our shooting sport would become at the very best - unpleasant. It behooves us all to not be distractive while others are shooting. Avoid walking behind and around a shooter trying to concentrate on range finding and shooting. Save idle chatter to moments when it does not disturb others. Admittedly, all this is pretty obvious stuff but I know that we have all been guilty of lapsing occasionally into a "no-think" state of being distractive.

If a shooter deliberately persists in trying to rattle a fellow competitor a terrible potential burden is placed on the Match Director. Shoot Rule No.9 states: "The penalty for deliberate infraction of the Shoot Rules, unsafe practice, ungentlemanly conduct or any form of cheating is disqualification." A protest invoking this rule would certainly be a loud sour note for any match.

The protocol of Field Target requires us to be gentlemen and supportive of each other. If a shooter makes a good shot, say so. It's music to our ears even if it's a "gimme."

Author: Rodney Boyce

Source: AAFTA Clubs and Shooters Handbook

AAFTA Swap Shop

(Deadline for input to the newsletter is in the editor's hand by the 20th of the month!)

Send in your items, "Wanted", for "Sale", or "Trade", to the AAFTA Swap Shop.

Wanted: Beeman C-1 (or Vulcan Carbine) for project gun. Condition unimportant. Prefer .22 but will buy .177 if price is right. Steve Cox 859-263-8378 or coxclark@email.msn.com.

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