

2014 AAFTA Nationals (Oct 3-5) - Heflin, AL

Thanks to all who came to Heflin to join in on the fun and challenge of the 2014 US Nationals. There were months of prep work involved by many on the team and the week of the event was days of hard physical labor building courses and rechecking things 2 or 3 times to make sure we didn't miss something. We could not be happier with how the event went and it would all be for nothing if you guys had not put your trust in us and come to Heflin AL to shoot with us. Thank you!!

None if this would be possible if not for Paul Oswalt's drive to have a FT club in Heflin AL and keeping it going for these many years. Also the City of Heflin for seeing the potential to promote our sport and their willingness to support us to such a great extent. From building us covered ranges to clearing land for our FT courses to logistics during the match they gave all we could have asked for and more!! Thank you Miss Tammy, all of the Parks and Recreation guys, Mayor Rudy Rooks and the good people of Heflin!! Our unique trophies were the product of a local organization called The Opportunity Center that helps "challenged adults" with job training and employment opportunities. They worked hard to come up with something special for us; they succeeded on a grand scale!

Brad Troyer put a lot of thought into designing impressive courses. I know there were at least 3 designs before the final one was set out. Brad is a perfectionist and one hell of a course designer that is for sure. Best of all is he likes doing it! He was smiling and laughing all weekend, even as he was missing shots he put out, and listening to folks comment about how challenging the courses were. The list of things that went into making these courses so challenging:

- Extreme UP/DOWN shots due to having varying terrain.
- Near far mix up (close together)
- Obstructions causing tight shots, thoughtful target placement
- Target placement forcing you to shift your position between targets
- Tight shooting box markers
- Shots with lots of heat mirage
- Sitting in the bright light shooting into dark shadows shots.
- Sitting in the shadows shooting into bright light shots
- Potential for 1 turn out of revolution distance placements (aka, 10, then 32 yard)
- Small area kill zones!
- Wind! Lots of wind scenarios. In addition to the shifting and heavy winds. You had some in wide open areas, some up/down hills, some mixed woods/open areas and shifting forest winds

Friday got started with competitors getting to the range early to get in some practice and make sure their equipment was ready for the matches to come. The range was buzzing with activity and laughter as friends greeted each other and new friends were made. I love just listening to the myriad of interesting conversations that take place at the range before a match, I always learn something new with so many smart interesting people gathered and sharing ideas. Groups of competitors went across the road to preview the courses during the day, many coming back already predicting some tough days of shooting ahead

for the weekend. Friday afternoon was the Pistol FT match. Leo Duran provided the course design, and with lots of help from friendly volunteers we got it set up on Thursday afternoon. There was some rain earlier in the day on Friday but it cleared and was dry by the 2:30 start time. The course was 7 lanes with 3 targets per lane with 2 shots on each for a total score of 42 with a Troyer difficulty factor of 33. Leo's course design was a good match for the area we used with the varying terrain making shots more interesting. Many positive comments about the pistol course were expressed after the match, with some good scores being shot on a difficult course. Congratulations to our 2014 National Champions Charles Garvey in Hunter Pistol (35) and Mike Vredenburg in Open Pistol (33), great shooting guys.

Weather forecasts for the weekend were for cooler temps with the winds to pick up, a nice and welcome change from the typical heat and humidity of summer in the south. Saturday morning started off in the mid 40s, overcast, with gusting, swirling winds so the weather guessers got this one right. The shooters meeting got started around 8:30 with City of Heflin Mayor Rudy Rooks welcoming everyone and Paul Oswalt giving the instructions for the days' shooting and handling of squading, with another short meeting at the head of the course to explain the layout of the courses. We ran two courses (red and white) that were alternating lanes and also running opposed to each other. This was designed to allow shooters to socialize more as they passed from lane to lane seeing different groups of shooters headed the other way on the other course, it worked well in that regard but did take a bit of getting used to. The Open PCP, Hunter PCP and Piston shooters were shooting on the White course while on the Red course the WFTF PCP and Piston shooters and Freestyle shooter battled it out. . The Troyer difficulty rating on the White course was a 39.4 while the Red course was a 38.5 taking wind into account but I am not sure if that really tells the whole story as to just how challenging but fun that day of shooting really was.

The shooting on Saturday was challenging to say the least, with winds swirling in every direction and changing constantly even as you were setting up to take your shot. At dinner of Friday night everyone had their thoughts as to what the top score on Saturday's match would be, with the consensus being 52. After the courses had had their way with everyone on Saturday, Greg Sauve was topping the list for high score on Saturday at 54 and Dottie Berry right behind at 53, unbelievable shooting in those conditions.

When the match was over shooters had to have their rifles tested to verify that they were within the rules for power limits in the class they were competing in before turning in their scorecards. Then all were treated to a great lunch of a Ribeye steak sandwich, baked potato, garden salad, and Chocolate cobbler for dessert. Next up on this busy day was the annual AAFTA membership meeting where some lively discussions were held concerning many topics, including the growth and governance of our sport. It is clear from listening to these discussions that there are many people who love this sport and are working hard to help make the sport better, even if we don't all agree on the best way to accomplish this goal.

Next up was the AAFTA auction where Brad Troyer was a fantastic auctioneer and bidding was lively. Thank you to all of our AAFTA sponsors who were very generous with donations. Please support our sponsors as they are helping to grow our sport, a list of the sponsors is on the home page of AAFTA.org and our website 2014aafta.webs.com

Sunday started with cooler temps, 38 deg and sunny but greatly reduced winds which didn't seem to upset anyone too much. We had a really short shooters meeting at 8:30 and headed out to the courses to see how it would all shake out at the end. With the lack of wind on Sunday the Troyer difficulty factor was down to 35.5 on the White course and 35.6 on the Red course. Even without the wind to ramp up the difficulty on the courses they were still great courses to test all of your shooting skills. The top scores on Sunday's match were Greg Sauve at 56 and Harold Rushton at 55, very impressive scores.

Another good lunch was served immediately following the match with Shrimp n grits, country fried steak and gravy, creamed potatoes, squash casserole, and peach cobbler for dessert. Enjoying a good meal with friends after a match makes for some good memories.

When all of the scores were finalized we had a few shoot offs. Shoot offs were handled out in the open wind of the sight in range with competitors shooting simultaneously at two targets each with a 3-minute time limit for both shots. First up were Charles Garvey and Ron Robinson for 1st place in Hunter FT with Charles winning. Second up were Ken Hughes and Tyler Patner shooting for 4th place in WFTF PCP class with Ken winning. Lastly was a three way shoot off for 3rd place in WFTF Piston with Manuel Morales, Paul Bishop, and Steve Vines that was won by Paul.

The awards ceremony was the final chapter of this event. Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you to all that attended.

Your 2014 National Champions are:

WFTF PCP	Greg Sauve	110
Open	Douglas Miller	106
Hunter	Charles Garvey	100
WFTF Piston	Kevin Yee	87

There were so many friends that helped with all of the million things that have to be done. Walt Roller built lane marker signs, standing lane stands to rest your gun on for range finding, target stands and kept our air supply topped up each day. Mike Koratich, Rob Seiden and his nephew Alex, Doug Vinson, Leo Duran, Ron Robinson, Loren Hanson did major amounts of work helping setting up lanes, clearing debris, and doing all that needed to be done. Doug Vinson handled our fabulous T-shirt design and ordering. Doug Vinson and Tyler Patner got together to work on sponsorship for the event and came through with flying colors! Paul Oswalt found us the right people to cater tasty meals that refueled us after a hard day of shooting. My wife Deborah who put together a beautiful website for us and maintained it, expanded it and took care of the registrations and score keeping at the event.

Then there was the small army of good friends that stayed and took the course down after the event was over!! I might accidentally forget someone so I will just say THANK YOU!! We are truly blessed to have such a great group of friends in the FT community, which is what it takes to put on a great event.

Thanks again to everyone who competed and those that helped make it a great weekend to remember.

Ken Hughes

WFTF - PCP		Sat	Sun	Total	
Greg	Sauve	54	56	110	1st
Harold	Rushton	51	55	106	2nd
Paul	Plauche	48	54	102	3rd
Ken	Hughes	50	51	101	4th
Tyler	Patner	50	51	101	5th
Luis	Nevett	49	51	100	
Doug	Vinson	49	49	98	
Brad	Troyer	49	48	97	
Neil	Youngren	45	50	95	
Matthew	Sawyer	48	44	92	
Peter	Brooks	46	44	90	
Robert	Ray	37	49	86	
Donovan	Taylor	43	42	85	
David	Slade	34	47	81	
Jose	Perez-Luna	40	38	78	
Cliff	Smith	35	35	70	
Emilio	Mazzuco	29	39	68	
Brian	Vandenbeam	33	33	66	
Greg	Garner	33	30	63	
Mark	Catlin	22	37	59	
Ron	Carlson	27	29	56	
Logan	Garner	17	13	30	
Alejandro	Pappaterra	10	10	20	

WFTF - Piston		Sat	Sun	Total	
Kevin	Yee	42	45	87	1st
Matt	Brackett	40	35	75	2nd
Paul	Bishop	36	36	72	3rd
Manuel	Morales	32	40	72	
Steve	Vines	39	33	72	
Ray	Apelles	35	31	66	
Leo	Duran	31	34	65	
Keith	Knoblauch	22	37	59	
Neil	Jones	18	21	39	

OPEN PCP		Sat	Sun	Total	
Doug	Miller	52	54	106	1st
Bobby	Corcoran	51	53	104	2nd
Dottie	Berry	53	50	103	3rd
David	Alsup	52	51	103	4th
Waldemar	Gordils-Rios	46	53	99	5th
Ramon	Conor	50	48	98	
Roz	Sumpter	42	55	97	
Vipha	Miller	51	44	95	
Danny	Ayers	47	47	94	
Rob	Seiden	39	54	93	
Edwin	Tubens-Soto	50	42	92	
Chris	Merritt	43	48	91	
Sammy	Garcia	43	47	90	
Mike	Vredenburg	37	53	90	
David	Bialecki	44	44	88	
Manuel	Gonzalez	43	45	88	
Peter	Nylen	42	39	81	
Ron	Zeman	37	44	81	
Jim	Whittlesey	49	30	79	
Scott	Allen	27	45	72	
Pat	O'Brien	41	30	71	
Sandra	Rutterford	23	47	70	
Michael	Koratich	28	38	66	
Jim	Bauman	23	27	50	
Robert	Shimizu	5		5	
Sebastian	Getz-Escadan	2		2	

Hunter		Sat	Sun	Total	
Charles	Garvey	48	52	100	1st
Ron	Robinson	46	54	100	2nd
Ammon	Piatt	44	44	88	3rd
William	Piatt	42	40	82	4th
Chris	Berry	35	46	81	5th
Walt	Roller	36	41	77	
John	Eroh	31	38	69	
G	Brandao	35	33	68	
Bob	Dye	28	39	67	
Larry	Cleveland	33	34	67	
Bill	Day	32	34	66	
Kevin	Enzian	34	32	66	
Ed	Conoles	25	38	63	Piston
Charles	Hipsher	27	32	59	
William	Liebke	26	30	56	
Loren	Hanson	26	24	50	
Craig	Evans	17	25	42	
Don	Armstrong	19	22	41	
Alan	Otsuka	18	19	37	