

Airgunners of Arizona Field Target Match Report August 20, 2011 – Mormon Lake, AZ



We had 14 shooters congregate in the pines of Mormon Lake for our monthly field target shoot. Curiously, this is a low number for the month prior to the state championship, but we had a good time nonetheless. It is possible that attendance may have been less due to the weather reports.

On Friday, Steve Montgomery, Vince Pacheco, Doc Shrader, and I met around 11:00 and started setting up the course. Not sure whether we wanted 10 lanes or 12 lanes, we compromised on 11 lanes for a 44 shot match. We finished up several hours later and decided to wind down by getting a bit of practice on the sight in range. That lasted for no more than about 15 or 20 minutes when the first rain drops started falling. We were hearing the distant thunder most of the morning, but continued undeterred.

We had time to put our guns away and were standing around talking when it really started to open up. Steve Timarac arrived just prior to this and set up a canopy behind his truck and was intent on working with his ham radio, so we very quickly gathered underneath to wait out the shower. As it turned out, the rains continued for the rest of the afternoon and intermittently through the night.

Saturday dawned bright and clear with only a few sporadic clouds, cool temperatures, and that wonderful smell in the air that mixed with the scent of

pine. This was MUCH better than the 110+ temps of Phoenix this past week.

We had set up the course for this month in a different part of the tract that we are permitted to use and had lanes 1 through 3 positioned in a northerly direction, lanes 4 and 5 in an easterly direction and the remaining lanes curving around from southerly to southwesterly. This was done intentionally to locate the shooting positions in the shade of small clumps of trees scattered throughout, and it worked out great. There was a nice mix of open area and undergrowth to position the targets for a challenging course.

Of particular interest was lane number 1, which really pissed off, frustrated nearly everyone. We had 2 targets with identical kill zones, both of which were 5/8". They were set at the exact same distance, but one was out in the open while the other was tucked in to the base of a large shaded tree. We did not realize this was the case until we started pulling targets at the end of the match. Because of the play between light and dark, as viewed from the shooting line, you would swear that the targets were offset by at least 5 to 6 yards. We didn't actually measure them, but we had reported distances ranging from 41 yards to 47 yards. Needless to say, the scores reflected this especially when you took into consideration the slight breeze that picked up and swirled from time to time. At other times it was dead calm, but the wind gradually picked up in velocity towards the end of the match with the clouds once again building off to the east.

After the scores were turned in, and before anyone knew actual ranking, we had 3 people tied with a 35 out of 44. We set up a single target with a 3/8" killzone at an unknown distance and had the 3 shooters set up for a one shot, sudden death shoot off. Robin, last month's winner and this month's birthday girl (her birthday was the day before the match), Luis, who was able to make his first match this season, and Steve T. each launched one shot apiece. Robin and Steve both knocked the target down on their turn and moved on. This is where the sudden death portion fell apart. They continued to shoot for 12 or 13 more shots, either both knocking down the target, or both missing.

Most of the remaining participants watching were either grumbling or had fallen asleep, but eventually we had a winner with Steve Timarac taking 3rd place. You see, they did not know if they were shooting off for match winner, or one of the other positions and we were not about to tell them. You think that was not a nice thing to do? Only Debbie and I knew that Bobby Corcoran had only dropped 2 shots to claim the title of match winner for the this month with everyone except Steve M shooting in open class. Steve decided to shoot HFT this month to bolster the ranks of that class, but

the guys that normally shoot that class did not attend. Steve shot a great score of 32 with a brand new gun.

Here are the scores:

Place	Shooter	Score/44	Class	Gun Mfgr/Model	Scope/Power	Pellet/Wt
Match Winner	Bobby Corcorran	42	Open	USFT	Bushnell 8-32	CP 10.5
1	Mark Kauffman	40	Open	Daystate CR-X ST	Bushnell 6-24	JSB 8.44
2	Scott Jones	39	Open	Daystate Huntsman	Nikko 10-50	JSB 10.3
3	Steve Timarac	35 *	Open	USFT	Nikko 10-50	CP 10.5
4	Robin Montgomery	35 *	Open	USFT	Nikko 10-50	JSB 10.3
5	Luis Ruiz	35 *	Open	Daystate MK 4	Hawke SR12	CP 10.5
6	Dale Keiser	34	Open	Daystate CR-X	Burris 8-32	CP 10.5
7	Debbie Keiser	33	Open	Daystate CR97SE	Burris 8-32	CP 10.5
7	Len Tlapa	33	Open	Daystate CR-X	Bushnell 8-32	CP 10.5
9	Carl Shrader	32	Open	Daystate MK 4	Hawke 8-32	JSB 10.3
10	Vince Pacheco	30	Open	USFT	Nikko 10-50	JSB 10.3
11	Ron Drye	29	Open	Daystate MK 3	Centerpoint 8-32	Unknown
12	Larry Nelson	20	Open	Daystate Huntsman	Hawke 6.5-25	JSB 8.44
1	Steve Montgomery	32	HFT	FX Royale	Bushnell 3-12	JSB 15.9

* Tied score placement decided by shootoff

Next month is the state championships on September 17 and 18 with set up on Friday, September 16. For club members planning on arriving early on Friday, we could certainly use help with set up, seeing that we will have 24 lanes with 2 targets each. For this shoot, half of the participants will shoot the odd numbered targets on the first day and the even numbered targets the second day. The other half of the participants will obviously do the opposite.

For match bulletin and registration form, please email me (mkauffman1@cox.net) and I will send you this information. If you are a family with kids that want to compete, email or call me and we can make arrangements for that. We are asking everyone attending to please send in your registration and fees to Debbie by mail instead of having nearly everyone try to register at the last minute at the match. With around 40 people competing the previous 2 years, you can imagine what kind of a debacle that creates. Besides, we need to know up front how many will be attending to make sure that the caterer (Jason, of J&J BBQ) can plan on having enough food. Anyone who has tasted Jason's BBQ at the April match knows what I am talking about. Good LORD is that some tasty vittles! Early indications predict that attendance may exceed previous years, so sign up early.

A big thank you goes out to Steve Montgomery, with assistance from Doc Shrader and Vince Pacheco for setting up this month's course. Also to Pam Tlapa for taking all the photographs for the match report.

So, until next month, practice, practice, practice.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Kauffman
Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona