**Match Report 2022 Oregon State AAFTA Grand Prix**

24 competitors traveled from NV, CA and Oregon and enjoyed day temps in the low 90s and cooling nights in the high 50s. We had low humidity, clear skies and gentle winds 1-3 mph that began about 10am each day. No wind factor was used for the Troyer rating.

The Friday Pistol course had 21 targets with 2 shots each and was a 31.77 Troyer with a Std Dev of 5.24. 6 of the 42 shots were offhand.

Saturdays’ Rifle course had 30 targets with 2 shots each. 13 targets were past 40 yards, and 4 were past 50 with the average distance being 34.5 yards. STD Dev. was 5.8 with a 33.46 Troyer.

The Sunday course had 24 targets, 2 shots each, 8 past 40 yards, and 3 that were 50 yards or more and average distance was 33 yards. Std Dev. was 5.88 and the Troyer was 33. Day one had one kneeling lane and Day two had two standing lanes. Average Troyer for both courses was 33.25. I want to thank Randy E. for doing such a great job on upgrading, testing and setting properly, all the targets. We didn’t have any target failures during both days of shooting.

We started the Friday Pistol & Basic Break Barrel match about 4pm. 10 competed in the Pistol match, 3 in the Limited class, and 7 in the Hunter class. Three shot the BBB match with a shared HW35.

Mark Weidert dominated the BBB class with a strong performance of 31/42. In the Pistol match, Randy Ebersole and Scott Hull both cleaned all their sitting shots, but Randy got 3/6 and Scott only 1/6 on the offhand lane, so Randy shot the high overall score and won Hunter class with a 39/42. Cameron Kerndt shot 38/42, getting 5/6 on the offhand, but missed 3 sitting shots for the second highest overall score and to win the Limited class. Scott Hull took second in Limited with a 37/42. Brand new to pistol field target Kevin Hirsch shot 6/42. I took 2nd in the Hunter Pistol class with a 36/42. Scott Schneider was 3rd in Hunter with a 31/42 with John Knapp 4th with a 30/42.

Saturday morning Julie Taylor cooked up a hearty breakfast for the campers and early arrivers. It was getting warm already in the sun at 10:30 after the shooters meeting, when we started the Saturdays’ Rifle match. Wind was only a small factor on a few of the longer shots as the match progressed. The two person squads moved along pretty well. The targets work really well.

Chris Merritt blistered the course with the high score of the day at 56/60 in Open class, with Jim Whittlesey at 52, Pat Callahan at 49, and Vince Pacheco at 46.

In Freestyle class Saturday, Larry Durham shot a 45/60 and Bud Hoppe only one point behind with a 44/60.

The Saturdays’ Hunter class scores were very tight, with Chris Lovitt and myself tied at 54/60, Scott Schneider at 53, John Knapp another point behind at 52/60 and Fred Biergiel also in contention with a 50/60.

Mark Weidert shot the high Combined Piston and WFTF Piton score with a PCP type score of 49/60, Cameron Kerndt was second with a 42/60. In Hunter Piston it was closer with Scott Hull at 36/60 and Darren Taylor at 34/60. Chang Hu was in the lead in WFTF PCP with a 49/60, Jessica Kerndt second with 38/60 and Eric McMormick at 31/60.

Again Sunday morning Julie had a great hearty breakfast available for any hungry steel critter hunters up and about. I was wondering if the wind would blow or not today and if it didn’t someone might clean the new never shot 33T course. Randy Ebersole came close and shot the high score for day two with a 45/48. He and Chris Merritt had also shot the high score day one the month before at the NV state championships. But I shot second highest score both days and that was the difference earning me 1st in Hunter class and the overall high score for the match with 98/108. Scott Schneider and Chris Lovitt tied for 2nd with 92/108. Chris won the shoot off with a 4/4 on the difficult lane 6, and Scott missing one of his last long shots to take 3rd in Hunter class. John Knapp again just a point behind with a 91/108. Randy’s high score day two score only moved him into 5th place with a 89/108.

Jim Whittlesey shot the 3rd highest overall day two, but it wasn’t enough to overtake Chris Merritt’s day one 4 point lead and Chris ended at 96/108 for first in Open and 2nd highest overall match score, with Jim one point behind with a 95/108. Vince Pacheco got 3rd with 84/108 and Pat Callahan just behind with 82/108.

Sunday in Freestyle class Larry Durham and Bud Hoppe both shot a 37/48, but LD’s one point lead from day one gave him the victory with an 82/108. It was great to have Larry and Bud attend, Bud at 83, a brand new field target competitor, and LD, in at the founding of American Field Target, with his failing health traveling so far to join the fun. Thanks to both of them especially for making the effort and also.. A big Thanks to all of the competitors for paying the current high costs of attending.

On Sunday, Cameron Kerndt stayed steady with a 37/48 and Mark Weidert had a tough day at 22/48, so Cameron overcame a 7 point lead to win WFTF and Combined Piston with a 79/108. Mark held on for 2nd with a 71 and Scott Hull was 1st in Hunter Piston and 3rd in Combined Piston with a 64/108.

There are lots of people to thank for helping to host the match, but Randy Ebersole has to head the list. He started months ago working on getting targets and the course ready and was still working on preparations while helping new shooters get their equipment together just before match time. I’m sure that affected his day one score. That’s one of the unique things about this sport… there is a lot of just plain giving.. And Randy is one of those kind souls.

My wife and sister also started a week early planning and preparing the meals and worked overtime presenting and cleaning up afterwards… a lot more just plain giving from love.

I also want to add some more to the list of giving souls: Julie and Darren Taylor came early and helped with course & food preparation too. Eric McMormick took hundreds of pictures that we will be editing through and hopefully made available soon. Chris Lovitt also added some labors of love in the preparations.

Next up in the Western AAFTA Grand Prix matches is Scott Hull’s Club in Morro Bay, CA. on August 19th to 21st watch for details. Hope to see you there!

Wayne Burns

Match Director

2022 Oregon State & AAFTA Grand Prix Championships