

Oregon State Championships 2013

AAFTA Grand Prix match- June 15th & 16th

We could not have asked for better weather for our weekend of fun here in Southern Oregon... high in the mid 80s, partly cloudy, and light to med winds. We enjoyed the shade from the Oregon white and California black Oak, as we followed the trail along the creek.

A good number of competitors arrived on Friday to get in some practice on the sight in course and taste the wind conditions. We had a great time Friday evening sharing a few beers and talking air guns.

Saturday morning the wind was very mild as usual, but as match time approached mild wind was mixed with unexpected swirling gusts in the steep walls of the small canyon the creek runs through.

Lane one started with a very steep uphill tree shot, a moderate downhill, and then a long slightly uphill. The next few lanes have steep downhill first shots, and more long, across the canyon, through the swirling wind shots. The course curves along the creek in a quarter circle, and reading the wind direction on the second half becomes trickier, and as the day developed, the gusts became stronger.

The course troyer was about 35 to 37, (I'll get out the range finder and figure the exact troyer later today for the final report to Leo and the AAFTA Grand Prix gurus). I only put one 3/8" kill zone, but there were plenty of 1/2" to 5/8" for the close shots and when one considers the steep downhill angles, the 1/2" becomes as difficult as 3/8" straight on. I planned on the wind being stronger than it turned out, and the 2" kzs on some of the longest shots increased the success rate on those targets, although some folks like me, still got blown out by an unexpected gust as we broke the shot. You can see, from the spread of scores, that the course was not as easy as some shooters made it look☺

A lot of the regulars had things come up at the last minute, and couldn't make it, so my sister Laurie, jumped into action and recruited friends, who really had a great time and are got hooked on the sport. We could all hear them laughing with abandon as they rang the bells on the practice targets... so our little club doubled in size overnight! Even my wife joined the completion on Sunday to help us make the 20 needed to qualify for the AAFTA Grand Prix. She never thought she would enjoy it so much, another converted soul?... we'll see☺

The target boxes I made to collect all the lead fragments, are really working well. They are heavy enough to stay in place during the resetting process, but a lot lighter to place and collect while setting the course, than the concrete blocks. It's very impressive to see how small the fragments become and how much lead is collected in each box after a match. It's also a little easier to level the whole box than the concrete blocks. They do darken the targets more when placed in heavy shade areas, so we painted the face plates lighter colors, when I was in a good mood☺

Saturday's competition was led by Jim Whittlesey with some real fine shooting. You top Open class shooters better watch your backs, he and George Doganis are learning this game real fast and are willing to travel to get experience and those Grand Prix matches on the books. Jim only missed two on Saturday, and with the milder winds on Sunday, he and George cleaned the course, including the six tough offhand & kneeling shots on the last lane. These guys are shootin machines☺

The Hunter class seems to be growing here like everywhere else. New shooters are choosing this class most to start out, and we had 13 competitors in this class. Jim Cyran and Scott Hull continued their tight race for the top spots in Hunter class, with Jim coming out on top this weekend. The Open class only had

six shooters, although, Open class did dominate the top overall scores this time. Mark was the only WFTF competitor and shot a great score of 79, using USFT #44 and holdover with an Aeon 8-32x44... not bad for shooting a loaner gun, while he's waiting for a custom stock for his Marauder. Here are the scores for both days on 108 shot course.

Open PCP

	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Jim Whittlesey	52	54	106/108
George Doganis	49	54	103/108
Wayne Burns	49	52	101/108
Chris Merritt	45	51	96/108
Bob Pont	46	42	88/108
Chris Lovitt	37	32	69/108

Hunter PCP

Jim Cyran	47	48	95/108
Scott Hull	42	49	91
Jon Brooks	41	35	76
Matt Lababedy	41	31	72
Kevin Huggins	34	25	59
Kathy Davis	13	15	28
Phil Owens	15	11	26
Shawn Bunch		20	20
Laurie Burns	10	8	18
Chris Burns		14	14
Steve Bunch		10	10
Aaron Huggins		8	8
Kim Huggins		6	6

WFTF

Mark Gravelle	39	40	79/108
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I want to thank all those who helped get the course together and run the match. Jim Cyran came early on Thursday and worked his butt off with Phil Owens, Laurie Burns, Kathy Davis, Mark Gravelle and I to prepare the new area for the course. The new lanes and trail along the creek will make it easy to lay out great courses in the future, so all the work will pay off in the years to come. You folks who missed the event will get another chance someday☺

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Burns,

Match Director,

Ashland Air Rifle Range