

Match Report Oregon State Championships June 27th, 28th and 29th 2014

A much needed heavy rain blessed us on Wed. before the match, and left us with unusually mild temps, partly cloudy days and a wonderful flow of Pacific Ocean air, in the high 70s, with light to medium winds from varied directions. It was for sure a perfect southern Oregon weekend for field target. Add in the sound of the creek we shot along and the shade of the oaks and it was a very pleasant shooting environment. We had competitors travel up from Northern and Southern CA. and Dan House made the long journey from Montana! But traveling the furthest by far was Oregon Native, Gordon Stipe and his wife, traveling from Thailand. Jim Cyran generously lent Gordon his Steyr LG110 FT, and again someone almost beat him (they tied for fourth), with his own gun. We have also grown our local Southern Oregon membership, and we had a great attendance of 30 competitors. Thank you all for investing your time and money to attend!

Nine folks decided to shoot pistol FT, but we didn't have enough pre-register to plan for a pistol match, so, at the last minute, we used part of the rifle FT course and moved up the shooting line where we could, which made for an "Expert" level 45 troyer pistol match. There were many groans as the shooters looked out at the targets from the shooting boxes. Even with the small kill zones at unreasonable distances, Mark Gravelle, who has not even shot pistol FT since the 2012 nationals, scored an amazing 33/38 for first place in Open class. Lonnie Smith and Scott Schneider also shot amazingly for this course. They tied for first in Hunter class Pistol, with 27/38 and Lonnie won the shoot off. One super brave soul Fred Biergiefel, with a 5fpe 1701p and red dot sight, shot the entire course standing off hand! But Fred, fine shooter that he is, didn't drop one target on the super tough course.

Here are the pistol results:

Open Class Pistol:

Mark Gravelle 33/38

Ronnie Easton 24/38

Wayne Burns 19/38

Hunter Class Pistol

Lonnie Smith 27/38 (won shoot off)

Scott Schneider 27/38

Steve Ware 20/38

Matt Kellerman 20/38

Chris Lovitt 17/38

Before allowing for wind factors, the yellow rifle course was a 32.7 troyer with 1.1 inch average kill zones, and 31.6 average yards. The easiest target was a 23 troyer, and the hardest was a 45 troyer. On the Blue course, the average troyer was 30.3. The average kill zone was 1.3 inches and the average yardage was 31.5. The easiest target was a 20 troyer, and the most difficult was a 45 troyer.

Unfortunately, for the competitors, the sight in line is quite a distance from, and with completely different winds, than the courses, so one didn't learn much of any value about the wind conditions from sighting in. Even checking your zero was a challenge with the wind currents created by the "bowl" effect of the 12 foot high wall/backstop. That is the only space I could use for the large number of folks who would need to sight in. Also unfortunately, for Ronnie Easton, his gun malfunctioned and he had to rebuild it Saturday afternoon, and shoot Sunday with a new tune and no numbers to match it.

On Saturday morning the partly cloudy skies, mild temps and light to medium winds made me worry that some of the top shooters attending might clean the course, but the small kill zones and slightly tricky varying winds didn't allow that to happen. Two shooters, Matt Kellerman and Alan Hull shot a 92.6 percent.

The course difficulty proved to be just about right, if the winds had been stronger, like they have been for the last few months, the scores would have been a lot lower. Planning a course to meet the 30 troyer min for an AAFTA Grand Prix, while hoping that some strong winds don't take that to a 40 plus troyer, (like happened at the Temecula Challenge), is a little scary for a match director who's course is in a normally high wind area. I would like to have had more 35 to 55 yard shots, but if we had an average windy day, the course would have been much more difficult. The course also had a few lanes where the first downhill target was such that prone shooters had to get up off their bellies and short shooters were out of their normal position to see the targets. All in all, a fairly devious course, but nothing like the master of challenge, Larry Durham creates at his "Temecula Challenge"

On Sunday the winds were even milder and more predictable, and most competitors shot a slightly better percentage than on Saturday, but the top score on Sunday, shot by myself, was only 89.6 percent. The high percentage for the two days was 89.2 percent, again shot by myself. I can hear the howls of "Home court advantage". The same song I usually sing when I travel. The funny thing is that I've been shooting about 70 percent for the last few months in the much stronger winds we have been seeing, that switch so much in direction and velocity in this bowl the course is in, but the winds were so much lighter this weekend, that I had a lot easier time, and didn't have to hold out of the kill zone that often with my 8.4 gr. traveling around 934fps. Please, all you west coast match directors arrange for light winds when I come to your matches.

The match ended in a tie for second place in Open PCP and Matt Kellerman aced out Chris Merritt in the shoot off. There was also a tie for fourth place between one of our new locals, Rick Norton, who is trying to start a club a couple hours north of here in Roseburg, (give him a call!), and Jim Whittlesey, who would normally win open class within the group who competed, but was having trouble with a last minute barrel change... lucky for the rest of us. Rick had to rush off to drive a truck for UPS, so he wasn't around to participate in a shoot off.

This was a 102 shot match, 54 on the blue course and 48 on the yellow course. Here are the scores:

	Air Rifle	Scope	Pellet/Speed	Score
Hunter PCP				
Alan Hull	Marauder	Leapers 3 -12	CPH 10.5 @ 905	85/102
Fred Biergiel	Daystate Huntsman	Hawke 3-12	JSB 10.3 @ 895	84
Scott Schneider	Marauder	MTC Viper 4-16	JSB 13.4 @ 810	80
Gordon Stipe	Steyr LG110 FT	Hawke Tack 30	JSB 10.3 @ 895	79
Jim Cyran	USFT #98	Hawke Tack 30	CPH 10.5 @ 890	79
Larry Durham	USFT hunter	Hakko 10 X	CPH 10.5 @ 900	76
Scott Steenhoek	Marauder	Aeon 4 -16	AA 13.4 @ 805	70
Art Burciaga	TM 1000 .177	Leapers 3 - 12	CPH 10.5 @ 890	69
Randy Ebersole	Marauder	Leapers 4 -16	JSB 8.4 @ 995	65
Richard Bowen	Marauder	Hawke Tack 30	AA 10.3 @910	58
Dick Strever	TM 1000 .177	Nikko 10-50	JSB 10.3 @ 840	54
Jud Flynn	Marauder	Hawke 3 -12	AA 10.3 @860	54
Josh Collins	Marauder	Leapers 6-24	JSB 8.4 @ 790	53
Hunter Piston				
Lonnie Smith	Air Rifle	Scope	Pellet/Speed	Score
Scott Hull	HW 97	Simmons 6 -20	JSB 8.4 @860	85/102
	Diana 54	Leapers 3 -12	JSB 10.3 @ 860	83
Open PCP				
Wayne Burns	Air Rifle	Scope	Pellet/Speed	Score
Matt Kellerman	USFT # 44	BSA 10-50	JSB 8.4 @ 934	91/102
Chris Merritt	USFT # 22	Hakko 10-50	JSB 13.4 @ 817	88
Jim Whittlesey	USFT # 27	Leapers 6 -24	AA 10.3 @ 850	88
Rick Norton	USFT # 158	Nikko 10-50	AA 10.3 @ 883	84
Mark Gravelle	USFT #57	BSA 10-50	JSB 8.4 @ 980	84
Angel Santiago	Marauder	Leupold 35	CPL 7.9 @ 955	79
Chris Lovitt	USFT	Sightron 10 -50	CPH 10.5 @ 905	74
Bob Pont	Marauder	Nikko 10-50	JSB 8.4 @ 825	71
Dan House	Maraduer	Aeon 10-40	JSB 8.4 @ 910	66
	Marauder	Aeon 10-40	FFT 8.6 @ 930	42
Open Piston				
Ronnie Easton	Air Rifle	Scope	Pellet/Speed	Score
	TX 200	Leupold 45	CPL 7.9 @ 840	50/102
WFTF PCP				
George Doganis	Air Rifle	Scope	Pellet/Speed	Score
Riz Marquez	Steyr LG110 FT	Sightron 10-50	JSB 7.9 @ 815	84/102
	Steyr LG110 FT	March S 80	JSB 7.9 @ 816	80
WFTF Piston				
Kevin Yee	Air Rifle	Scope	Pellet/Speed	Score
Allan Heggem	HW 97	Sightron 10-50	AA 7.3 @ 800	87/102
	TX200	Bush Elite 6-24	FFT 8.6 @ 760	71

A minor issue arose when a shooter's rig went through the crony I had set up along the course. The rig was over power by 3%. A non regulated .22 cal USFT that runs on such low fill pressures, can vary a lot with an elevation change like we had, and when tuned to start with a little valve lock so one can have a decent shot count, it can go over a little in part of the shot curve. When he filled his gun with air a little under his fill line, it was under 20 fpe. Since I was squatted with him, and he was ahead of me by two points, I could not decide on my own what to do. I know the shooter personally, and know he would not be over power intentionally, so after some consultation, with my range officers and west coast match directors, although not all agreed, the majority felt no advantage was gained by such a large spread in your shot curve, and that the average shots he had used so far in the match was under the 20 fpe limit, and so, we did not disqualify him.

I hope all who attended enjoyed the match as much as I did having you all at our range! Please come again to shoot at our local matches most Saturdays, now that we have our course size doubled, we will shoot both courses one shot per target for a 51 shot match.

And last, let me thank all those who helped get it all together and my range officers, Mark Gravelle Ronnie Easton, Bob Pont, Allan Heggem, and Jim Cyran. Also, my wife Christine, and sister Laurie for their fine cooking, (and labor cleaning up after us slobs), and finally my FT coach and mentor Larry Durham, for keeping me on the straight and narrow, and teaching me how to beat his butt☺ For once☺

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Burns,

Match Director,

2014 Oregon State Championships