

Southern Open and AAFTA Grand Prix – June 25-26

We survived the 2016 Southern Open!! I am considering T-shirts with the logo. The weather was once again a big factor in the game of Field Target, who would've thunk it? 2015 Nationals had rain, howling winds, rolling fog banks, and freezing temps, 2016 Cajuns had flooding, Southern Open had 114 degree heat index and warm blanket humidity. Mother Nature is doing her part to up the difficulty factor of our game. But we are tough enough to persevere for the love of the game.

Saturday morning came and 36 shooters went out onto the range to try out our "European Style" course set up. The format being one shot per target, two targets per lane and three minutes to do it in was new to most as was following the target numbers instead of near-far or left-right but most people seemed to get the hang of it quickly. The 50 shot course had a Troyer factor of 35.3, so not a cake walk of a course but some wind would have definitely added a new dimension as well as relief from the heat. We tried to get a good mix of varied terrain and lighting conditions with interesting target placements to keep challenging the shooters skills. I think we accomplished our goal but it did require a bit of walking much to everyone's dismay, sorry guys but you have to go where the terrain is to use it.

After a hard day in the woods shooting a tough course there were some great scores posted. Charles Garvey in Hunter PCP and Doug Vinson in WFTF PCP shared top honors with 48/50! in the heat that was some awesome shooting folks. Brad Troyer and Rod Bradley both shot well in WFTF Piston 41 and 37 respectively. The scores for Open PCP were tight with Will Piatt and Chris Corey at 39 and just 4 points covering the top 5 places. WFTF PCP had just four points separating the top four places. Things were "heating up" literally and figuratively.

Lunch was a catered delight with shrimp 'n grits, green beans, potato salad, and cobbler. Sitting in the shade with the fans going and eating good food with friends is a great afternoon in my book. But the day's shooting was not over, nay! nay! we were treated to a Gunslinger match presented by Pyramyd Air and run by Tyler Patner and Paul Oswald. Gunslinger is a speed shooting match, you shoot 1/10 scale silhouette targets in a head to head elimination rounds to determine the winner. It was fun watching shooters going as fast as they can to out shoot each other while the spectators urged them on.

Winners were Rob Seiden in Piston class shooting his R7!, and Charles Garvey in PCP using his Rapid. Sundays match was the normal to us, American field target style course set up of 60 shots with a Troyer factor of 36.2. The oppressive heat of Saturday was lessened due to cloud cover, a sprinkling of rain and some much needed light winds. The effect of this was the woods were much darker so finding targets and ranging them was tougher but this is all part of the game. The extreme up hill and downhill shots and darkness on the course were definitely challenging to most shooters, at least from what I gathered overhearing comments at the lunch tables.

At this match the top competitors in each class were shooting head to head to up the pressure down to the wire. There were some changes in the leader board with Rob Seiden overtaking Chris Corey for second place in Open class, Harold Rushton managed to get into a tie score with Tyler Patner to force a shoot off, which Tyler won on the fourth shot knocking down a 49yd Bird target on a kneeling shot. Meanwhile, Ken Hughes had a good day and moved up into the lead in WFTF with a Match high score of 103/110.

After another good catered lunch of brisket, hamburger steak, coleslaw, baked potato soufflé, and chocolate cobbler we had the awards ceremony. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Hosting any Regional or National event is a huge endeavor that requires a team of people to make it all happen. Thank you to all who did your part, large or small to make this event a success because it wouldn't happen without you. Know that it is much appreciated by many.

Thank you to all that attended our match for without you it would be for nothing. We hope you had a good time, made some good memories and that we will see you again next time we get the crazy idea to host another regional match.

Hunter PCP	Day 1	Day 2	Total	Place
Charles Garvey	48	51	99	1
Larry Cleveland	36	48	84	2
Walt Roller	31	44	75	3
Ray Barnett	31	27	58	
Andy Burns	19	30	49	

Hunter Piston

Gabriel Sallusti	15	22	37	1
Loren Hanson	10	18	28	
C.B. "Clutch" Meanor	0	0	0	

Open PCP

Will Piatt	39	56	95	1
Rob Seiden	37	55	93	2
Chris Corey	39	52	91	3
Roz Sumpter	36	47	83	
Mike Koratich	35	41	76	
Paul Porch	32	39	71	
Ron Zeman	19	39	58	
Pat O'Brien	22	15	37	
Robert Crocker	32	0	32	

WFTF PCP

Ken Hughes	46	57	103	1
Tyler Patner	45	56	101	2
Harold Rushton	44	57	101	3
Doug Vinson	48	52	100	4
Paul Plauche	41	52	93	
Jeff Paddock	40	45	85	
Chris Berry5	38	47	85	
Danny Ayers	33	47	80	
Robert Ray	33	44	77	
Cliff Smith	32	42	74	
Dave Slade	28	39	67	
Ron Brown	24	35	59	
David Alsup	37	0	37	
John Whitfield	34	0	34	

WFTF Piston

Brad Troyer	41	54	95	1
Rod Bradley	37	52	89	
Steve Vines	27	27	54	

Unlimited

Mark Wulfecotte	34	40	74	1
Carolyn Koratich	1	18	19	1

High Senior

Larry Cleveland	36	48	84	1
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