

TRAC match – April 9, 2024 – Tony Turchetta, match director

It was a WINDY match today! Seemed to fluctuate between NNE and NNW, fishtailing back and forth, blustery, buffeting, pushing us around, knocking over sight in targets, blowing hats off our heads, feeling colder than it really was.....and never ending! It was constant the entire match. At the beginning of the match, the winds were 17 mph, gusting to 19 and beyond, and at the end of the match, they calmed a little to 8 mph, gusting to 13. The day looked gorgeous; bright blue skies with no clouds. Temps ranged from the high 50's to the low 70's and humidity dropped down into the teens. The FELT temps seemed much cooler, with the wind chill, and we were still somewhat bundled up. Other than that, it was quite nice.....

With Tony as match director, it was a typical Tony course; all targets were stretched out and there were no gimme's at all. Given that, and with the wind, the only thing you could do was laugh it off.....with some colorful language thrown in for good measure. We would have been better off flying kites!

We had 11 guys today, but with only 10 ending up shooting the match. Scores were indicative of the conditions;

37/48 – Jesse Avery / Daystate Redwolf

35/48 – Barry Diehl / Daystate Revere

33/48 – Mark Kauffman / RAW TM1000 – Yes, a puffer gun. I read the forecast!

31/48 – Scott Hunt / BRK Sniper, and tied with....

31/48 – Tony Turchetta / Daystate Redwolf ROSSO (?).... whatever that is.

30/48 – Van Tucker / Daystate Air Ranger

28/48 – Joe Pruzinsky / Daystate Huntsman, and tied with....

28/48 – Bill Cole / Daystate Revere

23/48 – Loren Braud / Daystate Revere

21/48 – Stan Mountford / Daystate Revere

Tony did make a comment that with the conditions, that he thought that a 30 would be a good score for today. Boy, he wasn't kidding, either. He did a great job of making the course challenging and arranging for Mother Nature to cooperate accordingly.

On a more somber note, I visited Mike Smith in the hospital after last week's match. He was tired and sounded weak when trying to talk, but was otherwise still "Mike". Since then, he has taken a downward turn, with his body starting to shut down, and was placed in hospice on Friday. I visited him on Saturday and again on Monday. He is heavily medicated for the pain, and cannot communicate, but tries,

and he knows you are there. Sadly, he wasn't even able to open his eyes. His family is with him. We will, unfortunately, lose him, and soon, I fear. Please keep Mike in your thoughts and prayers. We will all be there at some point in our lives, but it really sucks when it does happen.

I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we are all fortunate and grateful to have Mike as part of our lives and that we are a big part of his. As I learn more, I will keep you all informed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kauffman

Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.