

TRAC match – January 14, 2025 – Tony Turchetta, match director



What do you get when you combine blowing dust, runny noses, cold temps, watery eyes, gusting wind, small kill zones, heavy clothing, and pi\$\$ poor shooting conditions? How about one of Tony Torquemada's torture tournaments.

In speaking with Tony this afternoon, with both of us still feeling pretty knackered, even after a much-needed nap, I got his version of what he envisioned for a match today; his zero-shot course. That is specifically no shots inside of any shooters ZERO distance. He sought to have all small KZ targets close up, with "somewhat" larger KZ targets out at distance. Nothing between 22 and 30 yards.

That might have actually worked if the weather cooperated.....

What we experienced was cloudless blue skies (good), cold temps between 46° and 54° with humidity in the low 20% range (ehhh), and wind that blew the top surface of the range free of anything loose, with the attempt at sandblasting the shooters, their equipment and their vehicles free of any paint (not so good).

Needless to say, there were NO hot-air balloons up this morning.....

We got to the range this morning while it was still dark, witnessing the first "wolf" full moon of the year, only to find Tony setting out targets using a head mounted flashlight in order to see, since the dawn had not yet crested the eastern horizon. The wind was howling even then.

Ah, yes. The wind.....

The wind was the expected north to northeast directional flow. It was even at the forecast velocities, albeit the upper range of those velocities. To put

it mildly, it friggin' GUSTED the entire match and increased throughout. Whereas it was recorded as gusting only 13 mph early on, it kept building to over 20 mph, gusting the entire time.

WHAT A ROYAL PITA that turned out to be!

I can only hope that those folks that emailed me to let me know that they would NOT be there today, heeded my weekly reporting of conditions and actually looked at the forecast beforehand. That would explain the lack of usual suspects not in attendance this morning.

The rest of us Neanderthals showed up anyway.....

I am genuinely surprised and impressed with the scores submitted today. Actually, I am mildly shocked that such scores were even possible!

Oh, and high score today came in at 77%. Amazing....

37/48 – Tony Turchetta (figures!) / Steyr LG110 / Hunter PCP

35/48 – Jesse Avery / BRK Ghost / Hunter PCP

34/48 – Van Tucker / Air Ranger / Hunter PCP

33/48 – Stan Mountford / Daystate Revere / Hunter PCP

30/48 – Paul Wilkerson / Daystate Wolverine / Hunter PCP

29/48 – Rick Eaton / Steyr LG110 / Hunter PCP

26/48 – Eric Ajax / Daystate Redwolf / Hunter PCP

25/48 – Tony Pellegrino / Daystate Huntsman / Hunter PCP

20/36/DNF – Mark Kauffman / RAW TM1000 / Open PCP

12/24/DNF – Larry Piercy / Daystate Gran Prix / Open PCP

Yeah, Larry had enough at the half way point, and Mark threw in the towel after 9 lanes. Yeah, we took a bit of verbal abuse, but enough was enough and you couldn't feel your fingers, or your pellets.

Wayne and Barry decided to stay nice and warm in their vehicles, with Wayne taking a nice nap. These guys were no dummies.

Gotta admit, I cannot recall conditions being this challenging in quite a while. Fortunately, the forecast for this coming Saturday's Founders Cup match sounds much more desirable.

Next Tuesday's TRAC match, on the pistol silhouette range and run by Mark, will be followed in the afternoon with a 50-yard benchrest match, on the benchrest range and being run by Tony Turchetta.

If it is any consolation, while taking care of our invoice at the main range building, the personnel there stated that quite a number of shooters left early due to the wind snapping the wood supports for the target stands. Yeah, it was breezy....

Respectfully submitted, but still with cold fingers and toes.....

Mark Kauffman

Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.