

TRAC match – February 7, 2023 – Wayne Mauler, match director

What is an odorless, colorless, 4-letter word that causes grown men to grumble and curse and grown women to.....well, grumble and curse.....and shiver?

.....**WIND !**

Yeah, we had it today, in spades! The NWS forecast 10 – 20 mph winds, with possible gusts to 25 mph. How do they know this stuff??? The winds we experienced, as recorded on the firing line, were between 11 and 17 mph, with periods of extended gusting up to 26 mph! This was primarily out of the north. Northwest to northeast, doesn't matter, it was there. Constant. Fishtailing. Buffeting. Fluctuating. Never predictable. It was blowing so hard that it was knocking over the sight-in targets. Not sure if it was pushing on the backs of the targets, thus preventing them from dropping, but for all of us, it was a bit frustrating. But with the aforementioned grumbling, coming from all positions up and down the firing line, it was fun to listen to.....LOL!

The physical appearance of the day was gorgeous! Rich blue, cloudless skies, with some distant haze. Bright sunshine. Temps ranged from 52° up to 61°, but felt colder from time to time due to wind chill. While changing lanes, I mentioned something to Barb about the wind being really something. I couldn't tell if she was nodding in agreement or just shivering. She was bundled up like an Eskimo.

We had a pretty good contingent of shooters today. 12 hearty souls showed up, along with one recovering match director. Wayne is on the mend, but showed up anyway, and while we were shooting, he was happily and comfortably napping in the cab of his nice warm truck! This tactic needs to be added to the job description; "Match Directing 101 – how to be there, but be somewhere else".

We had our usual 6 lanes / 2 targets per / 2 shots per / blah, blah, blah, but the target KZ's were on the small side and set at somewhat longer distances. One target was swapped at halftime. A 1 ¼" KZ, set at 49 yards, was swapped with a bit larger KZ that was set closer. There were damn few big KZ's anywhere on the course. It did not matter, we shot it anyway. Ah, the scores, you ask.....

45/48 – 2-bagger Mike was high score today, shooting his 147.5 fpe Thomas.

44/48 – Turk shot his FX Crown Bee (where does he keep coming up with these?) for next in line.

43/48 – Barry shot his Daystate Revere for third spot.

41/48 – Larry shot his Daystate Tsar and finished the match strong.

40/48 – Barb shot her Daystate Huntsman and finished the match even stronger.

35/48 – Jesse shot his Daystate Wolverine, tied with.....

35/48 – Tony, aka “pesty”, shooting his FX Crown (allowing his wife to kick his butt)

34/48 – Scott shot his Brocock Sniper.

32/48 – Joe shot his vintage Daystate Huntsman

30/48 – Stan shot his Daystate Red Wolf

26/48 – Mark shot his TX200 springer. Here is where it gets interesting. Todd has his gun in the shop getting repaired. I offered and he accepted to share my springer for the match. Now, he has never shot a springer before. Some brief instruction during sight-in and some coaching on the line during the match and he damn near beat me with my own gun. Good job....

25/48 – Todd, shooting a springer for the first time, and giving me assurance that I still have a modicum of teaching and coaching ability. Good shooting in trying conditions. Makes me proud! Of course, Mike HAD to say something about that afterwards. Chalk that up to p\*\*\*s envy! Some of us can shoot a springer, and others only wish they could.....LOL!

Next week will be our last TRAC match for February. The last two Tuesday's the range is not available. Best guess is the winter range cowboy action shoot.

See you next week.

Somewhat respectfully,

Mark Kauffman

Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.