

TRAC match – February 17, 2026 – Mark Kauffman, match director

Location; Frank L. DeSomma memorial range / aka rifle silhouette range was where we were located for today's festivities. We are here this week and next due to the End of Trail Cowboy action shoot on the other end of the range complex. This is good; it gives us some variety. We can either shoot from under the canopy, or shoot into the desert beyond the 100-yard berm with the hill side as our backstop, just not today....

It rained last night.....and everything out there was soggy and mucky, and wet!

Talking with Tony Turchetta, my lane partner for today, He stated that it was still raining at his nearby home this morning at 6:00. No doubt, considering the puddles/pools of standing water. No problem. We shot from the raised firing line and from under canopy. I was actually dreading today's match due to the weather forecast from the NWS. The 20% chance of showers was not the issue. The 10-15 mph winds with gusts up to 20 mph would have made the pellet drift issue more of a problem. Mercifully we dodged that bullet!

Today actually looked very promising. The temps started out at a manageable 53° and rose to 57° by the end of the match. The air temp felt colder once the wind picked up. With the fast-moving cloud cover, we had periods of sun, then deep shadow, then sun, and this kept repeating. Winds were primarily out of the SSW to SSE, back and forth, between nothing and 7 mph, picking up in intensity during the second half of the match. More on this a bit later.....

We had 12 guys today, but not Stanley. He is probably still slurping margaritas on the beach in Mexico, and recharging his batteries. Today, we had Sheldon Ajax, who is Erick's 91-year-old dad, who actually beat his son's score while shooting a rifle he has never shot before! Doesn't matter, Erick was beaming anyway. The rest of the crew was made up of our usual suspects, and we had a great time.

Today, we set up our usual 6-lane course and tried something a bit different. We set up a wedge. Using all 6 sizes of our killzone targets, in pairs, from ½" out to 2", we set them in ascending order, with the near ½" targets on lane one, and advancing to the 2" targets at lane 6. Each lane

had one target at around a 30 Troyer setting, with the next at from 3 to 5 yards beyond. Something I thought up while laying in bed last night. It turned out to be a hit, with several guys voicing their approval. Shoot thru once, then circle around and do it again for a 48-shot match. With the lighting condition changing so much (clouds), it was like shooting a different target each time. The scores.....

47/48 – Wayne Mauler / Thomas Air .177 / Hunter PCP (...WOW!...)  
46/48 – Carl Forrey / RAW TM1000 / Hunter PCP, and tied with...  
46/48 – Anthony Turchetta / FX Crown / Unlimited  
45/48 – Scott Hunt / BRK Sniper / Hunter PCP  
44/48 – Jesse Avery / BRK Ghost / Hunter PCP, and tied with...  
44/48 – Ed Brockway / Daystate Wolverine / Hunter PCP  
43/48 – Bill Cole / Daystate Revere / Hunter PCP  
41/48 – Larry Piercy / Daystate Grand Prix / Open PCP  
38/48 – Mark Kauffman / AA TX200 / Open Piston, and tied with...  
38/48 – Loren Braud / BRK Sniper / Hunter PCP  
33/48 – Sheldon Ajax / Daystate Blackwolf / Hunter PCP  
27/48 – Erick Ajax / HW97 / Hunter Piston

Next week is Larry's turn in the barrel as match director and will be our pistol / piston day, again on the Frank L. DeSomma range. Depending on weather conditions, we just might be downrange. Keep your fingers crossed.

This coming Saturday is our monthly match, and will be contested on the Small-Bore range, located just east of the Range store/main range admin building. This range also has a concrete deck and covered firing line. It is so nice being able to shoot in the shade, protected from weather, and not staring into the sun. No wonder our guys and gals shoot such good scores.

.....and now back to the weather. After the match, we reconvened at Wild Horse West, for burgers, and upon leaving noticed the weather change. The clouds over the range, as I was driving east towards I-17 on State Route 303, was darn near pitch black and ominous looking. The weather history recorded winds anywhere from 10 – 17 mph, with gusts up to 24 mph! As stated earlier, thank goodness we dodged that bullet. Sometimes, Mother Nature likes us...

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kauffman,  
Secretary, Airgunners of Arizona, Inc.

*The best things in life are free! The rest are too expensive....*