

TRAC match – June 25, 2024 – Mark Kauffman covering for Larry as match director

It rained last night. It was still mostly cloudy today, and HUMID! Good grief, was it muggy. Not too hot, but it felt that way. Temps ranged from 88° to 93° (it is 104° as I write this), and humidity was as high as 55%. Just a little muggy.

The cloud cover made for a nice shooting experience and so did the lack of wind. The breeze was anywhere from zero to 3 mph, and only got up to 7 mph for a short period, so basically no wind. On the way to the range the hot air balloons were just hanging in the air and during the match we could hear the aerobatic planes flying overhead. They were climbing and diving and sounded like a WWI dogfight. The wind up there was conducive to flying and they were definitely having fun, much the same as us.

Today was Pistol / Piston Tuesday and guess what? No pistols! We had 11 shooters at the beginning but only 10 shot, and guess what? Only one of them was a puffer gun! You heard that right; we had 9 Piston shooters today! Our lone puffer gun shooter was Barb. She is not allowed to shoot springer, according to Tony (that would be her hubby). He says he has to be able to win at something because she kicks his butt at everything else! Barb was very sporting about it today; she shot 12 of her shots standing.....and nailed all 12 of them!!

The joviality today was rampant. Seemed like everyone had a good time, although there was a bit of interesting commentary. Occasional “F” bombs were overheard and Tony Turchetta was accused of being an ugly cheerleader, but all-in-all, everyone had a good time, and all seemed to be getting the hang of this springer thing.

As noted, Barb was the only puffer gun shooter with her BRK Ghost “springer”, as was marked on her score card, and shot a 48/48 with 12 standing shots. No wonder Tony is not allowing her to shoot a real piston gun! Outstanding shooting!

As for the rest of us mere mortals.....

48/48 – Mark Kauffman / TX200 TL2 / Open piston

45/48 – Bill Cole / HW77 / Hunter piston

43/48 – Tony Pellegrino / TX200 / Hunter piston

40/48 – Loren Braud / HW77 / Hunter piston, and tied with....

40/48 – Wayne Mauler / TX200 & Thomas / Hunter piston/pcp – hybrid score – he started out shooting a new piston gun with faulty markings and switched off at the halfway point and shot his puffer gun. He did clean the 2nd half.

38/48 – Jesse Avery / AA Prosport / Hunter piston

32/48 – Anthony “ugly cheerleader” Turchetta / TX200 HC / Hunter piston

32/48 – Stan Mountford / TX200 <gasp!> / Hunter piston....Yes, Stan bought a springer!

31/48 – Joe Pruzinsky / HW97 / Hunter piston (with a batch of bad pellets)

There were a few challenging shots, but otherwise a springer/pistol friendly course with our usual 6 lanes / 2 targets per / shoot thru twice / 48 shots. I will take these cloudy days anytime, as they are much easier on the eyes.

We did have Scott drop out before the match due to a gun malfunction, but he was also geared up to shoot a springer. We will get those problems ironed out soon.

We did have one great suggestion to improve the fun factor and draw out more shooters; change the name from pistol/piston, to Jerry Springer, get a pool filled with Jello, and have a couple of strippers frolicking in it. That is a great idea and obviously someone’s taste in entertainment is quite sophisticated....but alas, it probably won’t happen, only because it won’t improve scores. Besides, Barb stated that she doesn’t want to look at Tony (Turchetta) stripped down and frolicking in Jello.....not a good visual and eye bleach would be needed.

.....did I mention that we DO have fun at our weekly mental health therapy sessions?

Next week is July already, and should be a real firecracker of a match with Wayne as match director. See you then.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kauffman