

September 2019 Light Rifle Match Report

Simon Bailey

Labor Day Weekend again – how did it get here so fast! This year Labor Day passed with a record setting hurricane spinning in the Caribbean and passing over the Abaco Islands. A blocking high pressure ridge over the eastern United States was slowly pushing Dorian north resulting in clear blue skies and moderate humidity over Georgia. Fourteen shooters were on hand to enjoy a cool comfortable morning all the while knowing that the heat was coming! After a short sight-in period, the match began about 9:45AM, and provided some unexpected results.

While Bob Morris has posted some good individual stage scores in the past, he really came into his own this Labor Day, by firing a 93-0X and a 94-1X to start the match. Not to be outdone, Mark Dorlay matched his scores exactly to create a tie for first place at the end of the second stage.

Starting a battle of their own, King Stracke and George Wilson also fired matching stages, 89-0X and 91-0X, to create a tie for third place. Craig Wood shot an exceptional 91-1X in his first stage to hold 1st Marksman after the second stage, followed closely by his son Ethan – could the Wood Family grudge match be playing out again?

In the next two stages, Morris continued with his newly honed skills taking sole possession of first place by 2 shots at 368-3X, despite Stracke's 4th stage surge. Stracke, having a very good match, shot an outstanding 96-2X 4th stage to move into second place with a 366-3X. Dorlay slipped into 3rd place by a single X with a 366-2X. Wilson dropped out of the top three to place one point behind Simon Bailey (357-0X) who was not having a banner day.

Wood Senior continued to shoot well holding on to 1st Marksman while Chris Sagar shooting his suppressed 10/22 moved into 2nd Marksman relegating Junior shooter Ethan Wood to 3rd Marksman.

By the start of the 5th stage the temps were really climbing, making the almost imperceptible breeze a welcome addition. Morris seemed unfazed and posted an additional 91 on the scoreboard to keep his first place by one point, but this time over a resurgent Dorlay, who posted a 91-1X. Bailey, still struggling, managed to move into 3rd place by one shot over Wilson after Stacke dropped a few points.

And then came the 6th and final Stage... After leading the entire match, Morris finished out with a very good 91-0X to finish out with a 550-3X. Dorlay, however, was having none of it and put another 93-0X on the board to take match honors by one point with a 551-3X. Bailey fired a 91-1X and Wilson a 91-0X which kept Bailey in 3rd overall – much to his surprise.

Wood Sr. continued to fire well with Ethan dropping out of contention. Another shooter, Mauro Bisiacchi shooting in only his third match, posted a very competitive score. Mauro was elevated to the Master to fill out the Master Class and to give him a good chance at a medal. Unfortunately, this did not work out in his favor. If classed as a Marksman he would have handily won the class as he finished the match with a 528-3X. It seems like he will want to shoot in the Marksman class going forward!

The match came to an end with some shooters substantially out-performing their usual scores, while others were not quite as happy with their Labor Day result.

Congratulations to all the winners, please see the Match Bulletin posted on the website for full results.

Mark Dorlay	- 551-3X	- Match Winner
Bob Morris	- 550-3X	- 2 nd Place
Simon Bailey	- 539-1X	- 3 rd Place

George Wilson	- 538-1X	- 1st Master
King Stracke	- 531-3X	- 1 st Sharpshooter
Craig Wood	- 510-1X	- 1 st Marksman

The next match will be the Club Championship Match to be held on Saturday, October 5th. The Championship match will be a 60-shot match fired at 50 ft. After the match is over, two one shot fun matches will be fired with a brick of SK Match ammo awarded to each match winner.

Grab your 22 rifle and come on out and join the fun and friendly competition.