

August 2017 Light Rifle Match Report

The August NRA Light Rifle Tournament is the second and final 50 yard Light Rifle Tournament of the year – thank goodness! The 50 yard competitions are always the most challenging and the August tournament has the added challenge of a metallic sight only match. Fifty yard matches usually see a number of shots that go completely wide of the scoring bull – even from experience shooters. In the words of one competitor, and borrowing from the character Chief Brody in the movie Jaws – “We’re gonna need a bigger target”!

With rapidly warming weather, the match started just before 9:30 with a sight in session to make sure that both optical and metallic sights were set properly. When all competitors were happy with their setup the first set of record targets were hung and the mayhem got underway with the metallic sights only match.

Mark Dorlay, who always shoots metallic sights and doesn’t seem to know what a scope is, jumped out into the lead with a solid 81. Not far back was Simon Bailey with a 78 and then George Wilson with a 77. Dorlay was very consistent improving his scores by one point per stage shooting an 81, 82 and an 83. After the good start, Bailey fell victim to the distance and had a disastrous second stage firing a 52 and falling from contention finishing as 1st Sharpshooter at 199. Wilson and a resurgent Gary Brockmiller managed to stay consistent, despite planting a stray shot outside the scoring rings to take 2nd and 3rd place respectively, with a 233 for Wilson and a 215 for Brockmiller. In the Marksman class, Tom Hollingsworth, continuing his good performance from July, finished with a 195 as 1st Marksman.

The second match of the day was the any sight match, so all competitors’ targets were scored and recorded. Both King Stracke and Mark Dorlay started well firing a pair of 81’s with Bailey again starting well firing an 81. At this point, the weather had turned very muggy so Dorlay ordered up a wind and sure enough a nice breeze blew in, quickly faded, but then came back to stay.

Stracke was consistent in the second stage with Dorlay and Bailey dropped a few points which opened the door for Wilson, firing a solid 83 to take second place and push Dorlay to third. Shooting into the third stage saw a major shift in positions and a tie for final honors.

Both Wilson and Stracke ended the match with a pair of 238’s with Wilson (77) coming out on top when Stracke(76) missed the bull with one of his final shots despite an otherwise good target. Brockmiller posted the best single stage of the day by firing an 85 to take 3rd place with a 234 and push Dorlay to 1st Sharpshooter with a 232.

Tom Hollingsworth again took top honors in the Marksman Class with a 199, followed by Don Coleman in second with a 186 and Beth Reynolds finished third with a 173.

Congratulations to all of the winners! Please see the scores page of this website for the full match bulletin.

The next Light Rifle match will be on Labor Day – Monday September 4th – with the format returning to the more comfortable 60 shot 50 foot format. I hope you can join us.