

## July 2018 Rimfire Benchrest Match Report

The weather really cooperated for the July Rimfire Benchrest match, as the temperature and humidity were moderate, the skies sunny and the wind very tame. A total of ten shooters were on hand, but lack of space to hang targets limited the field to nine shooters with the MD sitting this one out. With the MD focused on scoring and match operations, the match zipped by in record time, with all shots fired by 11:30AM.

The match this month was comprised of three stages at 50 yards. In previous matches, all competitors fired at the same RBA target, which put the Sporter Class shooters at a major disadvantage for match winner honors as the RBA target is very small. To even the playing field, the Sporter class competitors fired on IBS 50 yard targets – a more appropriate size target for Sporter/Factory rifles. The nine competitors filled out 3 classes with 3 shooters each – Unlimited, Sporter – Rest and Sporter – Bi-pod, with the three Unlimited Class shooting the RBA target and the six Sporters shooting the new IBS 50 bulls.

With very good wind conditions and the larger targets, it was anticipated that scores would be good. Sure enough, almost all of the scores were in the 240's with Grant Toman, using his Anschutz "Oops" posting a 248-12X in the first stage to take the lead over Pat Patterson with his Hall/Shilen rig firing a 248-11X. In the Sporter-Rest class, Joe Ettershank, using his Anschutz 1727, also posted a 248 but with only 8X's. Steve Gould, firing his Vudoo V22, shot a 246-7X and complained that the new targets were too big!

With winds staying modest, firing of the next two stages continued. In stage 2, Gould posted the match high stage score of 249-4X. Unfortunately for Toman, Oops developed "Colic" and refused to group consistently. Pat Patterson was having no such problem and advanced up the leader board. Ettershank continued to post consistent scores and Andy Greenspon, improving with every stage, also started moving up the grid.

The shooting was over early and while MD Bailey finished scoring, several volunteers set two additional pipes at the 50 yard line to allow for an additional target frame. With the third frame in place, a single relay can easily accommodate 12 shooters and can squeeze in up to 15.

With scoring and range mods complete, it was time to announce the winners – and for the first time, a Sporter class shooter took the Match Winner honors, with the winner, Ettershank, taking top honors based on X count over Gould, also in the Sporter class!

Joe Ettershank	Sporter-Rest	743-23X	Match Winner
Pat Patterson	Unimited	735-34X	1 <sup>st</sup> Unlimited
Andy Greenspon	Sporter-Rest	734-15X	1 <sup>st</sup> Sporter-Rest
Steve Gould	Sporter-Bipod	743-15X	1 <sup>st</sup> Sporter-Bipod

Congratulations to all of the winners. Please see the Match Bulletin for the full match results.

The next match will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup> and will, again, feature three 50 yard stages fired on either the RBA or IBS target depending of rifle class. If you have an accurate rifle and a good rest, come on out and join us for the fun.

