

August 2019 Rimfire Benchrest Match Report
Simon Bailey

Despite dire predictions by the weather people of cool conditions, heavy rain and strong wind, the only part they got right was the delightfully cool temperature.

Seven shooters gathered and were greeted by overcast and windy conditions that quickly settled down to provide a delightful shooting experience. The match format was three 50 yard stages fired at either the IBS 50 yard "Green Monster" for Sporter class or the RBA 50 yard target for the Unlimited class.

While the overcast skies did impact target clarity to some extent, the low winds provided a great ability to test and select a load for the match. With little ado, Patterson put his Myers/Broughton combo to good use by starting out with a 247-14X to take the lead in unlimited class. Bailey, still tweaking his 2500X/Mullerworks setup by adding an 8 oz weight to his tuner and shooting different lots of Tenex, managed a 246-10X. Steve Gould, using his Voodoo from a bipod, posted a 245-12X.

In Sporter class, Drew McKay's Lithgow lead off with a very solid 249-14X on the RBA 50 yard target. Given his very high and consistent scores of late, McKay might need to be upgraded to the RBA target starting next season!

For the second card, there a few periods of switching winds but there were also fairly long periods of consistent conditions or no wind. Selecting a couple of very favorable conditions, Bailey was able to post a 249-16X to take over 1st Unlimited. Patterson started the 246 club for this card along with Dave Rabin, and Joe Ettershank. Rabin, a first time attendee and accomplished smallbore prone shooter, using his prone rig consisting of an Anschutz 1913 with Benchmark barrel, posted a 246-15X. Joe Ettershank with his heavily upgraded Anschutz 1712 put up a 246-10X.

McKay, dropped a few X's over his first card, but posted what is becoming a routine score for him, a 248-8X.

The third card saw both Bailey and Patterson post 248's, Patterson with 16X's and Bailey with a match high 19X! Bailey finished as first Unlimited with a final aggregate of 743-45X with Patterson in 2nd with a 741-46X to take high X honors.

Rabin and Ettershank both finished tied with 733 for 3rd place, but Rabin's 35-X's secured the place over Ettershank's 22-X's

Not surprisingly, McKay took Sporter class, finishing with a 249-11X to tally a 746-33X aggregate.

For full results, please see the Website Match results page for the match bulletin.

The final match of the season will be held on September 22nd on MP-1 at RBGC. If all goes as planned, this will be the final match fired on MP-1, as next season the program will move to the Rimfire range which will allow both 50 and 100 yard stages.