

Smallbore Silhouette – September 19, 2020
Simon Bailey - ARO

Saturday September 19th saw the last match of the 2020 River Bend Gun Club Smallbore Silhouette season held on the Jim Hinkle Rimfire Range. The day started a cloudy and ended up partly cloudy and quite windy.

A total of nine competitors were on hand to compete for the Club Champion honors, but troubles with equipment claimed one shooter during the sight-in period and a second had to withdraw due to equipment troubles after the first match.

Since this was for Championship honors, scores for both matches were added and the winner was based on the aggregate. Due to aggregation of scores, individual match winners were not named, nor awards given.

After setting up the steel target frames, the shooting started with a practice period. Most shooters concentrated on the paper targets to confirm their zero and come-up's, while some fired at the animal silhouettes. The wind was present but manageable with shooters connecting with their practice targets. Unfortunately, one competitor was forced to withdraw during the practice period when he was unable to get his scope zeroed adequately.

After the practice period was over the shooting started in earnest with the Hunter Rifle match. Bob Morris, starting with Chickens, jumped out to an early lead taking a total of eight – a very good way to start the match. Simon Bailey started at Rams and connected with seven animals to put pressure on Morris.

Morris then moved on to Pigs, took out six of them and in the process cleared one rail of five, earning a Five-in-a-row pin in recognition of the event (At the RBGC matches, only a few such pins are awarded per year, so this is a good accomplishment). Frank Ledford hit four pigs as his first animal, then stepped up his game considerably by taking down six turkeys. The Turkeys at 77 meters are considered to be the hardest animal to hit, so Ledford, hitting over 50%, put the hardest stage behind him with style. Bailey meanwhile connected with six Chickens to stay in the hunt for first place.

Ledford rotated to Rams and dropped four, while Morris connected with two Turkeys and Bailey bobbled a bit by only hitting only three Pigs. The Pig is probably the easiest animal to hit, so taking only three piglets was not a very good result for Bailey. Alan Rauber's third animal was the Ram and he connected with 50% to help his cause.

The final animal for Ledford was the Chicken with which he had a great time, hitting eight and clearing one rail to earn a Five-in-a-row pin. Rauber also finished on Chickens with seven ending up in the dirt. Morris ended on Rams, but only added one to his total. Scott Bosso ended well on Pigs to add six to his total and Bailey ended on Turkeys adding two to his total.

With the Hunter Rifle match over, Ledford was in the lead with 22, Bailey in second with 18 edging out Morris, who tallied 17. Rauber and Bosso were tied for fourth with 14 each.

After a lunch break and an additional practice period, the Silhouette Rifle match got underway. Chris Sagar withdrew due to issues with the sights on his borrowed rifle, so the field was down to seven. The

wind started kicking up somewhat, pushing shooters around increasing wobble as well as pushing bullets off target so the smart money was that scores would be off slightly from the first match.

Shooters start the second match on the same animal that they shot last in the first match, so this put Ledford at Chickens, Morris on Rams and Bailey on Turkeys. Ledford claimed five, down a bit from his first effort, Morris improved taking four and Bailey shot the same as the first match and took two. Also, of note was Al Dunn starting on Chickens who took four.

Moving on to the remaining animals, Ledford shot consistently but a little below his pace in the first match, Morris kept shooting well and improving, scoring 50% or more for every remaining animal while Bailey continued to struggle, dropping out of contention, while Al Dunn shot very consistently helping his standing at each station. When all was said and done, the match finish order was Morris with 21, Ledford at 17 and Dunn at 16.

The final Tournament winners were determined by adding both match totals together to produce an aggregate score. Awards for provided for High Non-Member, Club Champion, Second, Third, fourth place and High Woman which were awarded to:

Frank Ledford	39 Animals	- High Non-Member
Bob Morris	38 Animals	- Club champion
Simon Bailey	29 Animals	- 2 nd Place
Al Dunn	28 Animals	- 3 rd Place
Alan Rauber	25 Animals	- 4 th Place (Tie with Scott Bosso – Rauber won the tie breaker)
Laura Hahn	23 Animals	- High Woman

Congratulations to all winners and especially the new Club Rimfire Silhouette Champion Bob Morris!
For full match results please see the bulletin on the website or club forum including pictures.