

Ashland WFTF Convention Report

8,9,10 December 2017

The first WFTF Training shoot is now history. Amazingly 16 shooters attended in spite of the weather uncertainty, christmas holidays, and the fact that this was the first shot at organizing WFTF training event.

The flyer sent out to announce the event explained that this was not a competitive match. The intent is to provide courses that mimic those found at Worlds events as a training medium for WFTF shooters. It also allows those who can't afford to travel overseas the opportunity to get a feel for what Team USA experiences abroad. The main goal is to up the game of US Shooters to help put them on the podium at Worlds events.

Since a number of shooters approached Mike aghast at the fact that we weren't reporting scores, we've done our best to assemble a score sheet below.

WFTF Training Results

Player	Friday Cow Pasture	Saturday Hillside	Sunday Hill. Practice
	Blow Up Guns		
RizM	30	36	32
BillC	28	35	27
KevinY	NA	32	25
KeithK	33	28	NA
PatC	24	25	29
TerryM	21	19	26
PeteB	24	34	27
GabelL	37	33	27
Alan O	11	NA	NA
WayneB	NA	25	24
RandyE	28	33	16
JasonH	14	18	16
MikeN	37	37	32
ChrisL	12	27	NA
	Boinger		
Lonnie	21	24	24
Cameron	30	30	12

Here's a summary of how the event panned out.

Friday's Cow Pasture Shoot

All hands chipped in to set up a 21 lane course in the field pictured below. We finished up around 1 pm and started shooting with quite a bit of wind (estimated 6-10 mph). The wind died off about one third of the way through the shoot, but it offered excellent training to break us in for the Hillside shoot the next day.



WayneB of the Ashland Air Rifle club busted his hump during the days prior to Friday building 26 portable wooden target stands. RandyE, JasonM & Wayne shuttled back & forth to Wayne's shop bringing them out the afternoon prior. In the background the hill we would shoot the next two days can be seen. The remainder of the targets were set up on cinder blocks. Wayne also came through with sight in targets which we set up using stakes. Good thinking Wayne!

Saturday, Hillside Shoot

Saturday we all walked up a 300' hillside to shoot on 25 lanes that were set up on Wednesday and Thursday. We practiced in a match format with most shooters using timers. The intent was to simulate the pace at a Worlds match, but we didn't strictly enforce it.

The course consisted of 50 targets with two targets per lane. The downhill angle was 20-25 degrees with winds in the 3-5 mph range. Top score were in the mid to upper 30's out of 50 shots. The course difficulty was increase by terrain variation which altered the effects of the wind and the manner in which 4 of the lanes were at 90 degrees to the general firing direction of the broadside of the hill. Broadside lanes were also set up with angle separation between targets on some of the lanes, making it difficult to memorize a wind holdoff and use it over the whole course.

The layout of Worlds level courses make the use of Troyer factor meaningless. This was a tough course. The course was long by US standards with few shots less than 27 yards. One way to look at it is that a $\frac{3}{4}$ " target at 20 yards and a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " target at 40 yards are the same Troyer, but they are not the same difficulty. I'd estimate the average target distance was 47 yards.



Views of the valley



Sunday Hillside Practice



Hillside Slope



Sunday morning we walked back up the hill. The wind was kicking, 10-12 mph & we shot the course in the practice mode. No timers and shooters were free to take as many practice shots for learnings sake as they wanted. Scores reported were "honor concept" scores.

The wind held up strong for about half the match, and then we did see some lulls in the 5 mph range on the broadside, however those lulls weren't very frequent. What surprised me is that many shooters held on to their scores in the high winds. I did not. I quit keeping score about half way through when I decided I had plenty of experience writing down "0".

Thank You

We want to thank everyone who came out to shoot on such short notice. We gained valuable experience in what it takes to plan something like this. Mike & I underestimated the amount of work involved. We owe a special thanks to Wayne, Randy, & Jason for busting their humps to host us. We also would not have completed the hill course in time if not for AlanO, who came out when we got there & worked with us through the whole event, and KevinY, GabeL, & TerryM who also came out early to pitch in. They got a lot of mountain goat practice along with us.

We were also grateful for the patience, help and understanding of all shooters. We could have been better organized, but really didn't have a good idea of the workload. We enjoyed sharing laughs with everyone during the event and look forward to the next one!



MERRY CHRISTMAS