



International Benchrest Shooters



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46th IBS 100-200 Yard National Championship

Union County Sportsmen's Club - Weikert, PA
July 13-18, 2015

For decades IBS has hosted an exhibition shoot on the afternoon of a day when only one aggregate is contested instead of two. It is called the Powderpuff and is intended to allow family members and others that do not shoot competitively to give benchrest shooting a try. Each shooter is assisted by a coach who instructs the shooter. World-class shooters such as Gene Bukys and Lester Bruno give their time and talents to assist the novice shooter. There is no time limit to rattle the inexperienced shooters.

Barbara Hottenstein continued as the Powderpuff chair and assembled a large array of awards and prizes. The competition is financially supported by the IBS President's Fund. This year we had 12 youth and adult competitors. Pam Campbell won the adult category while Jaydin Johnson won the youth division.



We had a nice turnout for the Powder Puff

The ancient benchrest alchemists once predicted a perfect storm for small groups. The recipe is: one part near ideal shooting conditions, 90 of the best benchrest shooters in North America and mix with the shooters' best barrels and bullets. Place the entire concoction at the shooting benches for seven minutes at time. The result in Heavy Varmint (13.5# rifles) at 100 yards, for example, was that the top 17 shooters averaged under .200 for their five targets! Yes, nearly the entire Top 20 in HV100 shot a "teen agg". Ten or fifteen years ago, that would have been unthinkable. Sure, the winners or top two or three would be in that rarified air, but not half of an entire relay of 40 shooters.

Another landmark of the 2015 IBS Nationals was that 17-year old Wyatt Peinhardt of Quarryville, PA won the 200 yard stage of Heavy Bench. That meant he earned his first point toward the U. S. Benchrest Hall of Fame (HOF). You need ten to get in; Wyatt has lots of time to get the other nine. He is no 'flash in pan'. The young Mr. Peinhardt has been shooting since 2009 and now runs full speed with the big dogs of the sport. He was in the Top 20 in this year's Super Shoot 2-gun results. Frequently he battles his dad, Jeff for supremacy at the bench. Strangely enough, here at Weikert in the Sporter Grand Aggregate (average of five targets at both 100 and 200 yards) they tied right down to four decimal places: 0.2317!

Some say that the Group Nationals are a marathon. Six days of competition at both 100 and 200 yards with four classes of rifles: Light Varmint (10.5#); Sporter (10.5# - 6mm min caliber); Heavy Varmint (13.5#) and Heavy Bench (known as 'Unlimited' in NBRSA-land). The first three are simply known as the "bag guns". Most competitors use a 10.5# rifle in 6PPC and compete in all three classes. The HB class requires 10-shot groups as opposed to the 5-shot ones for the bag guns. There is no prohibition to shooting your 10.5# rifle in HB, but a shooter is simply outclassed by the rail guns, especially for 10-shot groups.

As mentioned, the week's weather was very good. After what seemed like weeks of on and off rain, the central Pennsylvania weather gods smiled on what is considered one of the most beautiful ranges in the U. S. The shooters had nice sunshine and instead of the usual Weikert blow, they were treated to light zephyrs. It was a glorious week to be at a rifle match.

The sequence of competition groups has 100 yard targets shot the first three days followed by three days at 200 yards. It is done this way to require only one change of wind flags. Nationals competition requires 'full rotation'. That means that every time a shooter goes to the line for the next match target, he or she must move a requisite number of benches to the right. At the end of the day a shooter will shoot across the full width of the line. Some ranges offer unique properties that render some parts of the range harder or easier to shoot small groups. Bench rotation is important to even out those factors.

Monday morning saw the Heavy Bench (HB) shooters hauling the big rail guns to the line. Old pro Jack Neary led the way at 100 yards with .2186 aggregate. The 200 yard stage for HB would not be held until Saturday morning. The winner there, of course, was Wyatt Peinhardt with his .2993 (MOA conversion for 200 yard scores). On Tuesday the bags guns came out for Light Varmint (LV) and Sporter (SP). Conditions allowed for quite a few very good groups. The top thirteen shooters in Sporter shot 'teen aggs' with Bart Sauter leading the way at a .1666. In Light Varmint the 'teen aggs' only extended to nine places. Nevertheless, Wayne Campbell shot a tiny .1556. Both his warm-up and first record targets were in the 'zeroes' (.096 and .088).

Wednesday was reserved for Heavy Varmint (HV) at 100 yards and probably the best conditions of the week. You needed to average under .200 for five targets to finish in the Top 20 or nearly so. Harley Baker won with a .1616. The talk in the loading area was his fourth record target with was a miniscule 0.050 center right in the ten-ring (usually called the 'mothball'). It was probably the prettiest target most had ever seen. Better yet for Harley, the standing HV100 record in IBS competition is a 0.052 shot way back in 1980. Harley's target is being submitted to the IBS Measuring Committee (AKA 'Records Committee') for evaluation.

Wednesday afternoon saw the moving of flags for the 200 yard stage of the competition. The SP and LV 200 yard targets were Thursday's course of fire. In LV, Andy Shifflett shot a .1966 aggregate to pick up a HOF point. At 200 yards the aggregates are measure on MOA. Therefore, Andy's .1966 aggregate translates to an average 200 yard target measurement of less than .400". The afternoon was reserved for SP targets. Billy Stevens shot a .2060 to win the afternoon's contest.

On Friday, a single aggregate of five record targets were shot for Heavy Varmint (HV) at 200 yards. Harley Baker had is mojo working with a .1896 aggregate. That performance, coupled with Harley's .1616 at 100 yards meant that his average in the HV class was a .1756 grand aggregate. That is small. Really small.

On Friday afternoon many of the awards for the bag guns were given out. Saturday was reserved for HB200. Since some of the bag gun shooters do not shoot a rail gun a number of competitors left Friday afternoon.

The rail guns came out to contest 200 yards on the last day of the Nationals. The winner was Wyatt Peinhardt. His .2993 was the only aggregate under .300. Wayne Campbell was second with a .3028. Winning the HB Grand Aggregate was 2-time Super Shoot winner, Larry Costa.

IBS recognizes winners as follows: Range aggregates for each of the four classes of rifles; Grand (100 and 200) aggregates in each of the four classes; 2-Gun (all HV and LV targets in 100 & 200); 3-gun (HV, LV, SP in 100 & 200) and 4-gun (HV, LV, SP and HB in 100 & 200). In the multi-guns, Harley Baker won the 2-gun. Gene Bukys added more HOF points by winning the 3-gun. In the 4-gun, however, it was Virginia's Wayne Campbell to take the overall with an excellent .2326.

A Group Nationals requires a ton of work to run smoothly. The Weikert range's sparkplugs are Mark Trutt and Dale Boop. This shoot does not happen without those two. This year's registration and general admin fell to Nancy Scarbrough, who ran a flawless operation. She was assisted by Will Baylor in the scoring and by Stacy Hynes. Steve Dodge oversaw the entire target crew while Larry Hertzog alternated with Mark Trutt as Range Officer.

Shooters winning awards were reminded to thank the trophy sponsors. The benchrest cottage industry should be commended for giving back to the shooters. This year's sponsors were BAT actions, Black Hills Shooters Supply, Boops Sporting Goods, Bruno Shooters Supply, Hart Rifle Barrels, Jewel Triggers, K&M Precision Shooting, Krieger Rifle Barrels, L. E. Wilson, Pacific Tool & Gauge and Shilen Rifle Barrels.

Jeff Stover

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IBS Group Nationals

Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert, PA

July 13-18, 2015

Light Varmint

100Y

1	Wayne Campbell	0.1556
2	Howie Levy	0.1762
3	Tony Boyer	0.1768
4	Gary Sullivan	0.1822
5	Jeff Gaidos	0.1868

Sporter

100Y

1	Bart Sauter	0.1666
2	Jeff Gaidos	0.1680
3	Wayne Campbell	0.1682
4	Tony Boyer	0.1806
5	Larry Costa	0.1808

200Y

1	Andy Shifflett Jr.	0.1966
2	Harley Baker	0.2115
3	Bart Sauter	0.2128
4	Dana English	0.2137
5	Don Rosette	0.2189

200Y

1	Billy Stevens	0.2060
2	Pat Reagin	0.2149
3	Al Auman	0.2256
4	Andy Shifflett Jr.	0.2272
5	Larry Costa	0.2357

LV Grand

1	Wayne Campbell	0.1912
2	Jeff Gaidos	0.2033
3	Dana English	0.2105
4	Bart Sauter	0.2107
5	Howie Levy	0.2132

SP Grand

1	Larry Costa	0.2083
2	Jeff Gaidos	0.2097
3	Wayne Campbell	0.2126
4	Bart Sauter	0.2167
5	Gene Bukys	0.2178

Heavy Varmint

100Y

1	Harley Baker	0.1616
2	Gene Bukys	0.1644
3	Jim Miller	0.1710
4	Smiley Hensley	0.1738
5	Lowell Frei	0.1743

Heavy Bench

100Y

1	Jack Neary	0.2186
2	Frank Marks	0.2224
3	Mike Bennett	0.2382
4	Larry Costa	0.2418
5	Sid Goodling	0.2474

200Y

1	Harley Baker	0.1896
2	Bob Scarbrough Jr.	0.1934
3	Joe Hynes	0.1981

200Y

1	Wyatt Peinhardt	0.2993
2	Wayne Campbell	0.3028
3	Larry Costa	0.3074

	4 Kent Harshman	0.2055		4 Brian Dolinsky	0.3201
	5 Gene Bukys	0.2177		5 Russ Boop	0.3213
HV Grand			HB Grand		
	1 Harley Baker	0.1756		1 Larry Costa	0.2746
	2 Gene Bukys	0.1910		2 Jack Neary	0.2811
	3 Bob Scarbrough Jr.	0.2032		3 Andy Shifflett Jr.	0.2919
	4 Joe Hynes	0.2043		4 Wyatt Peinhardt	0.2993
	5 Bill Goad	0.2071		5 Wayne Campbell	0.3023
2-Gun					
	1 Harley Baker	0.1968			
	2 Gene Bukys	0.2024			
	3 Wayne Campbell	0.2077			
	4 Jeff Gaidos	0.2111			
	5 Smiley Hensley	0.2209			
3-Gun					
	1 Gene Bukys	0.2076			
	2 Wayne Campbell	0.2093			
	3 Jeff Gaidos	0.2106			
	4 Bart Sauter	0.2216			
	5 Andy Shifflett Jr.	0.2233			
4-Gun					
	1 Wayne Campbell	0.2326			
	2 Jeff Gaidos	0.2373			
	3 Gene Bukys	0.2386			
	4 Andy Shifflett Jr.	0.2404			
	5 Larry Costa	0.2525			

Details

- [All aggregate details](#)
- [Grand and Multi Gun Aggregates](#)

Equipment Lists

