

Canadian world benchrest team competes “down under”

Photos and story submitted by Vera Carter

Eight members of the Canadian World Benchrest Team travelled to Sydney, Australia to compete in the 2013 World Benchrest Championships. It was held October 21-25 at the Silverdale Range, about 1.5 hours west of Sydney, Australia.

The World Benchrest Championships (WBC) are 100 and 200 yard rifle competitions hosted every two years in a different country - we have previously competed at WBC events held in the U.S., Austria, France, and South Africa. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is the sponsoring organization for the Canadian World Team, and this is very much appreciated.

October is early spring in Australia, and the conditions at the Silverdale Range were the toughest we've seen in a five-day competition. Switching winds gusted to 100 km/h throughout the week which not only made shooting challenging, but also caused great distress in the area for firefighters battling bushfires. Smoke on the range from a nearby fire and mirage from high temperatures and low humidity added to the difficulties in keeping small groups on the targets.

Wayne Miller and George Carter were top Canadians, with Bob Richards also finishing well. Wayne won a match in the 200 yard 10-shot with a group measuring 0.655", and George won a 100 yard match with 5 shots measuring 0.163". Teams winning the competition were the U.S., followed by South Africa and Australia. A total of 77 individual shooters attended the event, which was somewhat poorly attended due to restrictive firearms permit requirements in Australia.

The next WBC competition in 2015 will be hosted by St. Louis, Missouri. Canada is qualified to send three teams, and Canadian shooters will need to compete next year to determine who will make up the teams heading to the 13th world benchrest championships.



Team A:

George Carter
Vera Carter
Andy Laidlaw
Wayne Miller

Team B:

Rick Pollock
Dan Henderson
Bob Richards
Hugh Williamson



Hugh Williamson (left) and Wayne Miller at the WBC in Australia.