

MDRGC Center Fire Benchrest Match and "So you want to try Benchrest"; November 1, 2015 (by Jim Latham)

One of the best things about today was we got to start an hour later than usual due to going back on Standard Time. With the rainstorm blasting when most of us woke up, we were not that anxious to get out there. But my goodness, despite all that we had an absolutely full house for our match and several folks who joined us afterwards to try to see if benchrest was perhaps their calling..... I certainly felt a little less organized than usual but again as usual everyone chipped in to make the match and the tryout both a great success. My sincere thanks to both Joe Mendham and Dave Holbrook for stepping aside for others and our newcomers. The good news is that we have grown now to the point where we will have to prepare for two relays. We knew this was coming soon; it looks like the time is now! But when Joe and I recalled that only three years ago there were only the two of us, we are delighted. And we believe that when folks realize how much fun we have through the camaraderie of the group and the incredible room for personal development there is with center fire benchrest in terms of tuning, loads, bullets, rests, and general precision we think we can hook in a few more folks who lean towards the anal side of the ledger, you might say. In true benchrest one never stops learning or experimenting. It did not rain all the time during the match but on several occasions it rained hard. At least there was very little wind which helped compensate for that. We were just fine for our 100 yard portion of the match, (other than drenched first targets that were in the hard rain for too long) but we did not have a full complement of target frames for 200 meters so we adapted and instead of shooting 20 score rounds onto 2 targets we shot 15 score rounds onto a single target. As you can see the match was extremely close in both the benchrest class and the factory class. While it was no surprise to see Art Harder win at 100 and the Aggregate, it was great to see Sam Parrotta take 200 and get back to shooting at the level we have seen in the past. Newcomer to our group Pete Talas who is no newcomer to shooting, placed third just ahead of Wally McDonald who had one of his best matches in some time. Sonja Oblak was next and managed to score better than husband Frank who was having ammo/loading challenges preventing him from getting his usual scores right in the top two. (Word is that Frank had to cook dinner tonight to celebrate Sonja's household win.....) Mark was working with a new gun and Bob and Paul each had some ammo issues. Our four factory class shooters were a little more spread out. Ray Parkin of BR50 Sporter fame pulled a solid win and newcomer Vlad Kahle would have given him a very good go with his Tika had he been able to finish one target, especially since he won the 200 portion. Gary Fowler did very well on his first match with us claiming second place, and for some reason Gord's gun would not shoot to its usual standard. Following our match we had several folks attend to see what we were doing, take photos, try some of the rifles for a few shots, ask zillions of questions (the whole idea) get some important links and most importantly, stayed in the clubhouse for an hour and were all ears. Now if we can only get them into a BR gun before reason and partners get in the way, we may have gained another 4 or 5 shooters! All in all despite the weather it was a fine match and a very encouraging response to folks who wondered about our sport. I think I neglected to mention to them that is very (bad) habit forming..... Our guests were family from the Parrotta clan, Kam Sandhu, Gerry Greshuk, Ken Holmberg, Ron Geering, Eugene Baker, as well as the chap who organized that contingent, Doug Romilly. Thank you Doug! We hope you join us on a permanent basis. Final Match of the year is December 6th, which will be followed by lunch at a local brewery!!

2015	MDRGC CF Benchrest												
	Monthly VFS Match												
	I Nov.2015	Class	100	100	100	100	100	100	200	200	Grand	Place	Place
Bench			T1	T2	T3	T4	Agg (100)	place	T5	place	AGG	BR	Factory
	Possible Score	BR/Factory	55	55	55	55	220		165		385		
3	Wally McDonald	BR	49	51	52	53	205	5	148	3	353	4	
12	Mark Dumont	BR	52	51	51	53	207	2	145	5	352	5	
9	Pete Talas	BR	51	52	51	53	207	3	147	4	354	3	
8	Vlad Kalhe	Factory	46	21	52	50	169	5 Fact	136	1 Fact	305		3
5	Art Harder	BR	50	51	53	54	208	1	150	2	358	1	
11	Sonja Oblak	BR	50	52	50	53	205	4	142	5	347	5	
10	Frank Oblak	BR	45	48	51	46	190	9	130	8	320	8	
7	Sam Parrotta	BR	50	50	50	53	203	6	152	1	355	2	
2	Ray Parkin	Factory	44	51	44	46	185	2 Fact	132	2 Fact	317		1
4	Gord Dale	Factory	39	44	49	45	177	3 Fact	124	3 Fact	301		4
6	Paul Koivukoski	BR	47	52	50	51	200	7	139	6	339	6	
1	Bob Goehring	BR	46	50	48	50	194	8	139	6	333	7	
0	Gary Fowler	Factory	40	49	43	44	176	4 Fact	131	4 Fact	307		2

