

PA Riflemen's Weekend Match Report-2021

Over the Labor Day weekend Reade Range held our annual PA Riflemen's Weekend match. The Riflemen's Weekend a bit of a unique format. It is three days of shooting made up of the Pennsylvania Long Range, Mid Range, and High Power (Across-the-Course) State Championships. The respective State Champions are named each day, and the shooter with the highest aggregate score for all three days is awarded the title of Ultimate Rifleman. This year we had sixty-four shooters from eight different states come out for the weekend.

Thankfully for those of us at the match, hurricane Ida hustled its way out of western Pennsylvania and left us with beautiful weather for both Friday and Saturday. The long range match started out sunny, but cool. The wind was pretty light, but also a little tricky to read at times. There were very few cleans fired during the match, and George VanWhy put up the only one on the F-Class side of the range, giving himself a boost toward becoming the 2021 PA Long Range F-Class Champion, ending up with a 586-25X. There were just six cleans shot on the sling end of the range, and three of those belonged to Joe Sopko. With his .284 Win., Joe fired a perfect 600 with 28 X's. That's an outstanding score and a personal best for our Long Range Prone Champion. Congratulations, Joe!

Mid Range Day (Saturday) was also mostly sunny, a little warmer, with a little more wind. The wind seemed to be easier to see and read than the previous day, but it made up for it by switching very often and very quickly. Most of us got caught more than once, and on a couple of occasions the firing line went completely silent for a few minutes as the shooters waited out a major change. Allen Castle went into the third string in fourth place, a point behind the top three shooters. He cleaned his target and made up the ground he needed, firing a 598-34X for the day to win the Mid Range Prone Champion jacket. Gwen Basalla backed up her mid range win from last year with a 595-27X to become the Mid Range F-Class Champion for 2 years in a row! Great job, Gwen!

The weather changed on us about before dawn Sunday morning, giving our tents and campers and one unfortunate shooting cart a thorough washing. Thankfully all of our rainflies were up to the task! The morning forecast called for rain, but it looked like we would get a window long enough to shoot a 50-shot match. We started about 9:30, just as the rain was ending. The rest of the day was basically rain-free and very pleasant. Amanda Eisenboss cleaned her standing, sitting, and prone rapid fire stages, and only dropped three points for the entire day. Her 497-25X made her the PA High Power Champion. That outstanding across-the-course score also secured Amanda's second consecutive Ultimate Rifleman title!

The Riflemen's Weekend format is designed to encourage shooters to try a discipline in which they may not normally compete. This year it was fun to watch several examples of this during the long range match. Not only did we have more juniors shooting 1000 yards than we

ever have before, there were also several shooters who brought their service rifles (either AR-15s or AR-10s) to try out. For many of us, shooting all three disciplines is part of the fun of this weekend. I would like to encourage everyone to think about digging that old xtc rifle out of the back of your safe or borrowing a friend's long range gun, and trying to unseat Miss Elsenboss as the Ultimate Rifleman next summer!

Thank you to all who competed and all who helped run the matches. It was great to see you all again!

God Bless,
Jeremy Castle